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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should panhandling be prohibited in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Proclamation recognizes 40th anniversary of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

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NATION

The Supreme Court throws out major parts of Arizona's crackdown on illegal immigrants.

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LIFE & STYLE

Chris Pine wasn't afraid to accept one of the most challenging jobs in film history.

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Chamber backs 5-year extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce said yesterday that the CNMI economic meltdown will worsen without transitional Commonwealth-only workers at the end of the transition period on Dec. 31, 2014. The group supports a five-year extension of the transition period.

- 'Economic meltdown will worsen if transition not extended'
- Worker group not taking a position yet

The Chamber was responding to a request by the U.S. Government Accountability Office to comment on any "uncertainty" businesses are facing as a result of the federalization of immigration authority. The Chamber strongly recommends that another five-year transition period be enacted as soon as possible.

GAO is the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress.

In a statement yesterday,

See CHAMBER on Page 4

MVA cancels activities for Saipan Air launch

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The indefinite postponement of Saipan Air's operations has prompted the Marianas Visitors Authority to recall all local and off-island events related to the aborted launch next month, according to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio yesterday.

Among the cancelled events, Tenorio said, are activities lined up for the supposed inaugural flight on Sunday, July 1, in Japan where MVA prepared a ceremony for dignitaries and passengers of the maiden flight.

He could not immediately say the monetary impact of the air service cancellation, but admitted that the decision to recall related events was made following receipt of official confirmaton from Saipan Air yesterday.

See MVA on Page 4

YOUTH LEADERSHIP
Some 30 staff of the Division of Youth Services join its six 2012 exemplary youth leader nominees and other partner agencies and groups, along with volunteers, parents, and trainees, after Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos signed the proclamation declaring July as Youth Leadership Month yesterday at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill. ***See story on Page 5***

Admin firm on Fund emergency

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some lawmakers are leaning toward "amending" Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's executive order placing the NMI Retirement Fund under a state of emergency to incorporate most if not all of the agency's concerns but some want either rejection or retention. This comes as Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos described as "absurd" and "naïve" the Fund's assertion that the administration will use the pension agency's assets for other programs and services, among other things.

- Some lawmakers support just amending EO
- Senate, House to meet today with Fund

"That's kind of naïve that you think that the emergency declaration would allow for

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Babauta lambastes Kilili for 'stealing credit'

»Says grant competitive, not politically influenced

Babauta

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta lambasted U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan yesterday for allegedly stealing credit with the federal grant recently awarded to the Kagman Community Health Center.

See BABAUTA on Page 4

April visitor arrivals to NMI up by 42 percent. PAGE 2
OIA awards NMI $170K grant for hospital assessment. PAGE 5

Local

April visitor arrivals to the CNMI up by 42 percent

April 2012 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 42 percent compared to April 2011.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 30,691 visitors in April compared to 21,629 in April 2011. Overall, visitor arrivals are up 12 percent so far this fiscal year to 228,705 visitors.

Arrivals from Japan were 49 percent higher to 11,452 in April, a major rebound following the East Japan Earthquake of March 2011 and subsequent drop-off in travel from the primary source market. April arrivals from Japan also represent an increase of 9 percent versus April two years ago, and the greatest year-on-year jump in arrivals from the Japan market for the past several years.

Arrivals from Korea posted a third month of double-digit increases, up 48 percent to 9,399 visitors. Asiana Airlines has been operating Busan-Saipan charter flights from November 2011 to April 2012, driving significant growth out of the Busan market. In addition, Asiana Airlines resumed regular second weekly service from Busan to Saipan on June 13. This regular service had been suspended from June of last year due to lack of available aircraft. The supply of air seats to the Marianas out of the Korea market is expected to continue to increase due to planned charter flights from Incheon to Saipan during the coming summer peak season. Charters are already scheduled from Aug. 1 to 25 using an Asiana Airlines Airbus 321 with 171 seats.

Arrivals from China posted their highest month of growth so far this fiscal year in April, increasing 161 percent to 7,176 visitors. The number of airseats more than doubled in April 2012 compared to April 2011, as last year, the Northern Marianas only had two flights per week from Shanghai. So far this fiscal year, the Northern Marianas has received twice as many visitors from China as the same period last year due to additional flights, which include six total weekly flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Meanwhile, arrivals were also up 46 percent from Russia to 414.

"April 2012 showed a solid recovery compared to last year from our primary source markets of Japan and Korea and our secondary market of Russia, all of which had been affected by the East Japan Earthquake of March 2011," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "That increase, plus the exponential growth of China, are positive signs for our tourism industry, but much recovery is still needed to restore a vibrant economy."

Other markets posted lower arrivals for April, including Guam (18 percent to 1,259), the United States (24 percent to 640), the Philippines (40 percent to 38), Hong Kong (18 percent to 50), and Other Areas (87 percent to 263).

Japan and Korea economic highlights

The Japanese Cabinet Office raised its assessment in the latest monthly economic report, and the Finance Ministry announced the country remains on a moderate path to recovery.

During the month of April, the yen slightly increased in value versus the U.S. dollar and euro.

The Japan Travel Bureau conducted an online survey of mature travelers born between 1941 and 1955, and found that 2.8 percent of them made travel bookings online. When examining overseas travel separately, however, the percentage plummeted to less than 20 percent for tours with a guide, and 11 percent for free time type tours.

The Korean economy is showing a moderate pace of slowdown as external uncertainties eased and domestic demand slightly improved. Korea's budget plan for 2013 focuses on achieving a balance between revenues and expenditures and will mark the first time that the government has restored a balanced budget since 2003.

The daily oscillation of the South Korean won against the U.S. dollar narrowed to 5.0 won in the first quarter of 2012, according to the Bank of Korea.

According to the Korean Tourism Organization, the number of Korean outbound travelers in March 2012 was 1,018,952, an increase of 17.3 percent compared to the same month in 2011. ***(MVA)***

GAME ON
Cancer survivor Angel Ray Guerrero and his brother Joe Jr. pose with Joaquin Villanueva Kileleman at the Shriners Children's Hospital in Honolulu. Kileleman is seen here holding up two Nintendo DS games, which the Guerrero brothers brought for him. Kileleman is undergoing checkup at the Shriners Children's Hospital, while Angel Ray was in Hawaii to undergo his own cancer treatment at Kapiolani Hospital.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Fletcher: Fiscal emergency still real at CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite rumors the Legislature may eventually overturn its state of emergency, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Alan Fletcher said the utilities company actually benefited from the executive order.

Among these benefits, Fletcher said, is the current processing of contractor's licenses with the licensing board, which for some time was not functional due to lack of quorum. The Board of Professional Licensing issues license or certificates of authorization to off-island bidders.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial also cited as reasons for the emergency extension CUC's continuing cash shortage, which threatens to halt power, water, and wastewater services because of the lack of funds to buy diesel and lube oil for its operation.

Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* that this emergency situation is obviously evident in the current operation of the agency.

"As far as the fiscal emergency is concerned, that's still real [at CUC]…because we live in a week-to-week operation," he said.

He pointed out that cash flow problems at the agency have resulted in significant amounts of money that CUC owes vendors.

Because CUC operates as a non-profit, it relies heavily on its own revenue from customers, many of whom are in arrears amounting to millions of dollars.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren earlier disclosed that the agency recorded approximately $21.7 million in total collectibles from its customers, including government and private entities as of May.

Of the amount, $9.3 million as of May 21 was incurred by the agency's three biggest customers—the central government, the hospital, and the Public School System. Approximately $12.4 million was then owed by other classes of customers. This figure keeps going up and down as a result of some partial payments made to the agency.

Warren told *Saipan Tribune* on Monday that CUC is still living within its means.

Fletcher said the executive order, for one thing, ensures that everybody will work together on the table to solve the crisis at the utilities firm. "One good thing about this E.O. is it ensures that we're going to work together and solve that problem, and we're committed to do that."

Despite its cash flow problem, Fletcher remains confident that CUC will deliver on the expected power and water generation needed by its customers.

Fletcher declined to give further comments on the issue of alternative or renewable energy plans of CUC, saying that CUC is working closely with the Fitial administration on this. The administration is poised to award a 20-year renewable energy contract to U.S.-based American Capital Energy Co., whose local business partner is Herman Sablan.

ON DELEON GUERRERO'S RESIGNATION

Hart says NMC's reaffirmation remains its top goal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart assured yesterday that the departure of accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero will not hamper the ongoing work to reaffirm the college's accreditation.

Deleon Guerrero, who is also NMC's director for institutional effectiveness, quit his job following his appointment new president of Mount Carmel School.

Hart promised a smooth transition and assured that NMC's main goal remains to achieve reaffirmation of its accreditation status with the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

"In leading NMC's accreditation reaffirmation efforts, Galvin has been highly effective in managing and strengthening the college's institutional-level assessment activities. With his assistance and leadership, we have made tremendous progress in meeting accreditation eligibility requirements and standards," said Hart.

She emphasized that this progress and growth will continue after Deleon Guerrero leaves and that accreditation efforts will remain a top priority at the college.

"Galvin remains committed to assisting in the preparation of the college's Self Evaluation Report that is due to the accrediting commission in August," Hart added.

Hart pointed out that the institution has already covered much ground in the preparation of the self-evaluation report as the college's Accreditation Reaffirmation Team and Accreditation Standard Teams continue to meet weekly to work on and finalize the report. Standard Teams are also continuing to refine various parts of the self-evaluation report, she revealed.

Deleon Guerrero served NMC in 2009 as its director of institutional effectiveness and accreditation liaison officer. In a statement, Deleon Guerrero assured his continued support and assistance to NMC in the completion of its self-evaluation report.

Deleon Guerrero will transition from his current work at NMC to Mount Carmel this summer, particularly in gearing up for the opening of the school on Aug. 9.

Yvette Bennett wins Miracle Maker award

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

CNMI's Yvette Bennett was bestowed the Miss Idaho Miracle Maker award for being the contestant with the most money raised during a recently held pageant.

Bennett received the glass trophy and a $500 scholarship award from the Miss America organization for her fundraising efforts for a hospital in Boise that's part of the Children's Miracle Network Hospital, which partnered with the Miss America organization to promote their national platform.

In a statement, Bennett said the Miss Midaho Miracle Maker is an award that reflects what the Miss America organization is about: giving back to the community and making a difference.

"I felt like a winner when I got this award because I know what it meant to a lot of people who supported me and to the Idaho Pageant organizations itself. I hope everyone back home will be proud of my efforts," added Bennett.

Born in Guam and raised on Saipan, Bennett is believed to be the first from the CNMI to participate in a state level beauty contest in the U.S. mainland, an accomplishment that the CNMI can be proud of, according to her father, Ambrose Bennett.

The CNMI's Yvette Bennett. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Lillian and I are proud parents and we want to extend our sincere thanks for the support everyone has given our daughter," said Ambrose Bennett of his daughter Yvette, who is a junior at Boise State.

Besides Miss Idaho, the younger Bennett has joined a few other scholarship pageants, namely Miss Boise Scholarship Program, Miss Gate City in Pocatello, and the Miss Tri-Counties but is still determined to take part in more pageants leading to the Miss U.S.A. crown in November.

Yvette Bennett, who aspires to become a professional model someday, expressed her sincere appreciation to all those who supported her bid for the Miss Idaho crown: Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Judge Juan T. Lizama, Sen. Paul A. Manglona, Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, Dr. John B. Joyner, Juan Nekai & Charlene Babauta, Jeff Schorr, Deleon Guerrero "Rai" Family, Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar, Richard and Loraine Seman, Rep. Ramon S. Basa, Dr. Ignacia T. Demapan, Ma Ma Shar, and Teen Talk.

Man pleads guilty to lying in passport application

A Tinian resident who is facing charges in federal court for filing a false statement to get a new passport pleaded guilty yesterday as part of a plea deal.

Geoffrey Kim Cabrera pleaded guilty to the indictment charging him with false statement in an application for a passport. He will be sentenced on Oct. 5, 2012 at 9am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona allowed Cabrera to remain free pending his sentencing.

Robert T. Torres served as court-appointed counsel for Cabrera. Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton prosecuted the case.

The prosecution has agreed to recommend to the court that Cabrera be given a sentence at the lowest end of the imprisonment range.

According to the indictment, Cabrera applied for a passport on Feb. 12, 2010, during which he lied that his most recently issued passport had been lost at sea while aboard a small boat.

The U.S. government said the statement was false because Cabrera, in fact, had surrendered his passport to the CNMI Superior Court on Dec. 23, 2009, as a condition of his pretrial release in a 2009 criminal case.

In May 2011, a Superior Court jury reached a not-guilty verdict on Cabrera for sexual abuse in the second degree. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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CHAMBER

From Page 1

the Chamber said its members summarized their uncertainty by stating the CNMI has been, and will continue to be, dependent upon foreign national employees to supplement the small numbers of U.S. potential hires in the CNMI.

"Together with the fact that there isn't much training available in the CNMI for technical positions, the dependence will continue until a change in education evolves," the Chamber said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reiterated last week that he supports a five-year extension of the transition period, citing the continued need for skilled foreign workers that the CNMI local labor pool still could not fill.

The Chamber said companies report that local employees, once trained or after having received their formal educations, head to other U.S. jurisdictions for employment.

"Operations are shrinking, and the business customer base has decreased by over 25 percent in the past five years. At the end of the current transition period, without CW-1 visas, the economic meltdown will worsen," it said.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Chamber, said, "Regardless of the eventual date CNMI employers can no longer apply for foreign national employees via CW-1 visas, the CNMI economy will suffer as a result of that loss in human resources."

"The sooner the elimination of the CW-1 visa, the greater the impact," he said.

At least one workers' group, the United Workers Movement-NMI, said yesterday they have yet to take a formal position on whether or not to support extending the transition period.

"We're doing research on this, with the help of experts. We're looking at Public Law 110-229 to see whether 'zeroing out' workers at the end of the transition period would mean granting improved status to foreign workers or phase out of foreign workers. We're also hoping that before 2014, all legal long-term alien workers will be granted improved status or green card," UWM-NMI president Rabby Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Meanwhile, the Chamber said if the additional transition period weren't granted, existing businesses would no longer be able to secure CW-1 visas past November 2014 for foreign national workers, and there would be a corresponding void of skilled labor that would no longer be available within the CNMI for businesses and essential services.

"SCC members, private and public, were overwhelmingly consistent in attesting to that uncertainty created with the approaching date of November 2014, where all CW-1 visa holders would be 'zeroed out', and companies employing CW-1 applicants in skilled positions would not be able to easily locate qualified replacements," it said.

The Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members.

CW-1 visa holders have a position range in the CNMI that's enormous, the Chamber said.

It said CW-1 visa holders have positions in management, business and finance, computer and math, engineering and architectural technicians, legal and educational occupations, entertainment, healthcare support, protective services, food preparation, maintenance, sales, office administration, farming and fishing, installation and repair, automotive, production and transportation.

As of June 5, only about 29 percent or 3,422 of 11,739 foreign workers petitioned for a CW-1 status have been approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, based on USCIS data.

This means 71 percent more are still waiting for their CW permits.

'Startling example'

The Chamber said a startling example of the disruption that would be caused when CW-1 visas are eliminated would be in the case of the Commonwealth Healthcare Center.

"According to administrators, the CHC has a little over 100 nurses, and 90 percent of those nurses are applying for CW-1 visas. None of those applications from the CHC have been processed and/or issued yet. If those CW-1 visas were no longer available, the hospital could not function, and would essentially cease to handle those needing medical services. The CHC has the only real operating rooms in the Northern Mariana Islands. Without nurses and attendants, everything stops," the Chamber said.

It added that if the U.S. Labor Department recommends ending the transition in November 2014, a potential health threatening situation would unfold.

"It is also fair to say, without a functioning public health care center available for companies and their employees, CNMI residents would suffer. Further, future investment, the Chamber's sought after retirement visa program and other new economic possibilities are severely threatened with this health care 'uncertainty' that will surely occur should the transition period not be extended," the Chamber added.

PL 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control, allows U.S. Labor to extend the transition period beyond Dec. 31, 2014, if it thinks it is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers are available to CNMI businesses.

MVA

From Page 1

Saipan Air released Monday a statement about the suspension of its operation until further notice. The carrier cited issues beyond its control as factors behind the decision and bared plans to file a lawsuit against Swift Air, the company that was supposed to provide the aircraft for its operations.

This development came as a surprise to many as the official launch is just a week away, July 1.

According to Tenorio, MVA lined up promotional activities at each city to be served by Saipan Air, such as Beijing. These were pulled back yesterday after the agency was contacted and advised by Saipan Air that all plans are off the table.

During MVA's board meeting yesterday, the Saipan Air issue was briefly discussed but, in the absence of more information, the board did not issue or adopt an official comment. The board, however, adopted MVA's audit report for 2011, to be consolidated with the CNMI single audit report.

"The board understands that more information needs to be shared and it is difficult to comment now without knowing fully what happened," said Tenorio.

Tenorio himself was party to the launch receptions recently conducted by Saipan Air in Japan and China.

Saipan Air has yet to respond to further inquiries relating to its decision as of press time.

Saipan Air had planned to introduce flights from key cities in Japan and China. The airline had planned to initially provide daily flights to Narita City in Japan and four times a week to Beijing, China.

The new carrier was seeking to gain back the Japanese traffic the islands lost after Japan Airlines pulled out in October 2005.

ADMIN

From Page 1

the use of the Fund assets for non-retirement purposes. That's kind of absurd. We don't go that far," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* and KSPN 2 in an interview on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez asked House and Senate members in a June 22 letter to reject the Fund emergency declaration or at least address seven of their specific concerns.

These include clarifying that trust assets will be kept separate from assets of the CNMI government or its agencies and ensure at least $13 million annually in employer contribution.

"We disagree. In fact, we plan to do better than that. We plan to infuse about $30 million, not $13 million a year," Inos said, adding that this will double the Fund's lifespan, beyond 2014.

Inos said he hopes the Legislature will fully understand the executive order.

"We've never taken the position that's taken by the Fund… We do not plan to use any of the Fund assets for anything than for the purposes of the Fund; that we allow $13 million of employer contribution into the Fund. We're trying to do better than that," Inos added.

Villagomez met yesterday with a few Senate and House members to reiterate the Fund's concerns.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said he hopes all Senate and House members will be present in a follow-up meeting with Fund officials today.

"Based on yesterday's meeting, some lawmakers are now leaning toward amending the executive order to address the Fund's concerns. We hope that in the Wednesday meeting, we would be able to get consensus on what to do with the Fund request," Manglona said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) separately said he supports amending the Fund EO to address the "seven concerns of the Fund."

"But I don't support rejecting the EO," he added.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said when the Fund filed for bankruptcy, "they didn't even have the decency to come to us and tell us they were going to do that. We thought we're supposed to be working together at the time."

"Now that they want something, they're coming to us. Had they talked to us before, maybe we won't be talking about this emergency declaration today. I think the administration's plan is good, and the Fund made a bad decision [in filing for bankruptcy]," he said.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), for his part, said that because the EO has not come into effect yet, the administration could still amend it instead of the Legislature amending it.

"But most important, I would like to see the Retirement Fund and the administration sitting down together to build that bridge, to work together," he added.

In his personal view, Inos believes "there are few folks out there [with the Fund] who are just concerned about their existence and they want to protect their jobs. …They shouldn't be worried about that."

The administration will be moving the Fund under the Department of Finance.

As it is now, the Fund is not a sustainable program, Inos said, adding the administration and the Fund should now be preparing for the transition.

"They come out with things like this…this is not conducive to working together," Inos said, referring to Villagomez's letter to the Legislature.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said the administration's advice is for the Fund not to appeal the federal court's decision to dismiss the pension agency's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

"We need to be on board, on an overall plan, and that overall plan is to try to salvage whatever we can of the DB [defined benefit] plan, and that is to find ways to make sure that those who have retired under the program will continue to receive their pension and that's what we're trying to address. And then back to the administration plan of converting or transitioning active folks who have not retired from the DB to transition onto [U.S.] Social Security," he said.

The Fitial administration is now drafting legislation it hopes the Legislature will pass, to be given to the U.S. Social Security Administration. That legislation expresses the CNMI's desire to enter into the U.S. retirement system.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the grant application for the Kagman health center project was written by staff of the Department of Public Health and was submitted to the Health Resources and Services Administration on Dec. 15, 2010.

This grant, a competitive one, is commonly referred to as the 330 grant under Federally Qualified Health Centers or FQHC.

Babauta disclosed that the CNMI application scored 96 out of 100 rating, which became the basis for the grant approval amounting to $608,333.

"The application was approved on merit, not because Kilili asked HRSA associate administrator James Macrae to allow the application to be considered without the need for a sixth new application. Kilili made it sound as though he interjected political influence unto Mr. Macrae and persuaded him to approve the application. Mr. Macrae is a professional and I give him more credit than that," said Babauta, alluding to a press release Sablan issued last week about the grant's approval.

Babauta said he even spent hours meeting with HHS official at Region 9 Public Health Offices in San Francisco in February 2012 where he said there was never any mention about Sablan having anything to do with the Kagman health center grant.

The application, he said, was written in collaboration with several individuals within as well as outside public health. Babauta cited Esther Muña of the Medicaid program who supplied the financial information of the application, being the hospital's former finance officer and acting deputy secretary.

Babauta revealed that the Kagman Community Health Center board also met monthly to provide community input and guidance in the development of the application. He said the board approved the application before submission.

It was disclosed that Arielle Buyum was responsible for the final drafting and submission of the application under the guidance of then deputy secretary John Tagabuel.

In Sablan's statement, he indicated that "scores have gotten better, especially after he met with HHS officials in 2009."

Babauta took exception to this, saying the score got better because the staff at Public Health and the Kagman Community Health Center board submitted a superior application, not because of Sablan's meeting with HHS officials.

"This is Kilili's way to make it look like he exerted his political influence on HHS officials to get approval. It's a competitive grant, not a politically influenced grant. Furthermore, HHS officials are professionals. They review applications on merit, not on political influence," said Babauta.

According to him, Public Health and the Kagman Health Center board are co-applicants in the grant application and it was among the 850 applications received nationally.

In April this year, the healthcare corporation board, Babauta, representatives of the Community Health Center, Public Health director Roxanne Diaz, and Arielle Buyum met to consider submission of letter of intent to HRSA to pursue the application with a certain critical consideration—that it commit a matching grant of 50/50 with actual cash and or with in-kind contribution.

"It was decided that the risk was worth taking. The letter of intent was submitted by the corporation and the grant received approval," he added.

Babauta said that Sablan must give credit where it is due, particularly on this project.

"Many had a hand in making this grant possible and it is only right that I set the record straight, especially when so many of these individuals are or were employees of the former Department of Public Health, now the healthcare corporation. These individual and the community of Kagman deserve the credit," he said.

Babauta added: "In college, especially in graduate school and in life generally, when you take credit for something you didn't do, it is called plagiarism. When a student is caught plagiarizing, it is cause for expulsion. This is the moral of this message. This is not about politics, it is about giving credit where it's due and respecting and recognizing those who actually did the work."

OIA awards NMI $170K grant for hospital assessment

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial received yesterday a $170,000 grant award for the CNMI for its Healthcare System Analysis project that seeks to provide a comprehensive assessment of the operations of the Commonwealth Health Center.

Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula signed the award letter yesterday afternoon at the Office of the Governor. Also on hand to receive the good news were Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, CHC board chair Joaquin S. Torres, and board member Roy T. Rios.

In his award letter, Pula stated, "These funds are for the CNMI to conduct an efficiency assessment of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. that will evaluate its existing business structure, identify its strengths and weaknesses, and develop a corrective action plan for implementation."

Seated from left, Commonwealth Health Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and OIA Director Nik Pula. Standing from left, CHC board member Roy T. Rios and board chair Joaquin S. Torres.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Fitial expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Pula and Interior Assistant Secretary Anthony Babauta for reviewing and approving the CNMI's grant proposal submitted on June 16, 2012.

"My administration is truly grateful for this grant award. Healthcare is a high priority and I believe that through the upcoming assessment, we will be able to open new doors toward more efficient healthcare services for our people," said Fitial. "The assessment is just the first step. Once we get the complete analysis, we will have a solid implementation plan in place."

With the approval of the grant proposal, the CNMI can now set a start date for the assessment to begin. The timeframe for the completion of this project is expected to be six weeks from the start date. ***(Office of the Governor)***

July is Youth Leadership Month

»Six nominees for DYS exemplary youth leaders

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

July has been proclaimed the Youth Leadership Month and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos is urging all young members of the community, including parents, youth organizations, educational institutions, and island leaders, to support activities and programs promoting the future leaders of the Commonwealth.

Some 30 staff of the Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and other partner agencies and groups, along with volunteers, parents, and trainees, witnessed Inos sign the proclamation yesterday at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

"Our young people are our most valuable resource, and among them will emerge our future business, community, and island leaders," Inos stated in his proclamation.

According to Inos, youth leadership can be achieved successfully if they receive nurturance, support, and training to gain expertise and skills necessary in the decision making process for the planning and implementation of programs and policies affecting the youth.

Yesterday's event was also an opportunity to introduce the 2012 exemplary youth leader nominees of DYS, who were chosen based on their good moral character, leadership role in the community, involvement in schools and community activities and projects, and their positive influence on peers, siblings, and family environment.

"Unfortunately this year, we only have six nominees but that's better than nothing. They are here to work with us for a period of one year or they can stay with us longer to help us reach out to other youths in the community," said DYS acting director Vivian T. Sablan.

This year's nominees are Josephus Roque H. Aguilar, John Romeo B. Malasarte, Maria Angelica B. Malasarte, Alexa M. San Nicolas, Clea M. San Nicolas, and Marc Christian A. Venus. Aguilar, 16, and Venus, 14, were both nominated by the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands while the Malasarte siblings were nominated by the United Filipino Organization. On the other hand, Alexa San Nicolas was nominated by her school, Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School and Clea San Nicolas by Kagman High School.

Sablan also introduced the DYS trainees under the economic and leadership opportunity for self-sufficiency training program.

Refreshments were served to guests following the proclamation signing.

Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Tour Guide (2)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least 2 years of Tour Operations, Sales or Service related job experience. Must be able to speak Chinese. Ability to read, write, and understand Mandarin is an advantage. Must have excellent communication, organizational and selling skills. A valid driver's license is required along with a clean driving record. Availability to work on evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Applications can be obtained at Century Tours' HR Office at Kanoa Resort formerly Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than June 27, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours is an
Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with
Disabilities are urged to apply.

Missing family moments?
Spend more time with family.
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HAPPY SENDERS PROMO
Win a Roundtrip Ticket to the Philippines!*
Now, it's our turn to make you happy. Join the Western Union Happy Senders Promo and we'll bring you closer to home. From now until August 15, 2012, send money to the Philippines via Western Union® Money Transfer Service and you will be automatically entered to win one of the 6 Roundtrip Tickets from CNMI to the Philippines!
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• Money Transfer •
moving money for better
*This promotion is valid from May 15, 2012 to August 15, 2012. No purchase necessary. Terms and conditions apply. For full terms and conditions, inquire at your nearest Western Union Agent location.

CNMI joins celebration of ESGR's 40th anniversary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated second left, is flanked by officers, staff, and volunteers of the Guam-CNMI Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and service members after signing a proclamation recognizing the agency under the U.S. Department of Defense for their 40th anniversary at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed yesterday a proclamation recognizing the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's 40th anniversary, thanking the Guam-CNMI Committee of ESGR for their outstanding service and civilian employers for the valuable support they provide to service member employees.

"With the government as the major employer of Guards and Reserves in the CNMI, we do give special recognition to all those who participate in all the programs of ESGR. We fully support the program," said Inos after the proclamation signing at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

An agency under the U.S. Department of Defense, ESGR was established on June 22, 1972 by then President Richard Nixon in preparation for the eventual elimination of the military draft, said state chair David J. Sablan of the Guam-CNMI Committee.

But for people to go into "volunteer military," Sablan noted that there is a need to ensure that certain rights and privileges are protected, giving birth to the lead agency promoting support and cooperation between employers and Guards and Reservists.

Sablan said ESGR serves as the bridge that links employers to understanding the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act or USERRA, the law that protects these rights and privileges of National Guard and Reserve employees as well as fosters "a culture of support" for the military.

"They're out there protecting our freedoms and our way of life," said Sablan. "We have to honor them for that because they're special people willing to put their lives in the line for us, if necessary."

Sablan disclosed that the volunteer force in the military has now reached about 3.4 million, 48 percent or nearly half of whom are in the Guard and Reserve and are called "citizen warriors" for leading dual lives as members of the communities and the nation's armed forces.

In the CNMI, Sablan said there are some 127 Reservists and Guards, more than 40 percent of whom work for the government.

'Be prepared'

Sablan revealed yesterday that Guard and Reserve components of the military have been training heavily for the past year and a half following President Barack Obama's request for contingents to be deployed by next year.

According to Sablan, some 500 or 600 men and women from the region will be deployed between February and March 2013 for a period of "anywhere from six months to a year"—the biggest contingent that would leave the CNMI and Guam to serve under the president's order.

"Be prepared because it will happen," said Sablan, saying that ESGR has been proactive in explaining to Guam government officials since most of the men and women will come from that jurisdiction.

Although there will be fewer CNMI sons and daughters who will be part of next year's contingent, Sablan still urged Inos to get the Commonwealth prepared for this eventuality, as some of these Guards and Reservists hold critical positions such as teachers, firefighters, and police officers.

During the proclamation signing, Sablan presented Inos with the Guam-CNMI Committee of ESGR's "challenge coin" bearing the flags of both island jurisdictions and the U.S., seals of the seven services, and ESGR's vision statement.

As part of its 40th anniversary celebration, the Guam-CNMI Committee of ESGR will host today an Employment Assistance Workshop from 9am to 2pm and the Employer Initiative Symposium from 11:30am to 1:30pm, both at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

For more information, call Maj. Josephine M.P. Blas, program administrator, at (671) 483-0324 or (671/315) 735-0456.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free Friday films at the memorial park

The American Memorial Park presents free family friendly films every Friday, at 2pm and 6pm, in the Visitor Center auditorium. This Friday, June 29, the park will premiere *How To Train Your Dragon* at 2pm and then 6pm. ***(PR)***

Free Army Reserve Enrichment Camp

The Army Reserve's Child, Youth and School Services will host a free Youth Enrichment Camp on July 23-27 2012 at Marianas Trekking for children ages 4-12. For more information contact Travis Mckinney 808.438.1600 Ext. 3374 or email travis.mckinney@us.army.mil, or Chris Nelson at 323-8735. ***(PR)***

Saipan Computer Services donates $5K to NMC Foundation

In support of higher education in the CNMI, Saipan Computer Services donated $5,000 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation. The donation was made in support of the upcoming 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament scheduled for this Saturday, June 30, 2012, at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

"As the primary higher education provider of the CNMI, the college plays the important roles of shaping young men and women to be contributors to the community and training them for local workforce. We are proud and committed to support the NMC Foundation's efforts to help NMC," said SCS general manager Jerry Tiu.

NMC

Northern Marianas College students receive a $5,000 check from Saipan Computer Services general manager Jerry Tiu. The donation from Saipan Computer Services was made in support of the 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament scheduled for Saturday, June 30, 2012 at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

The NMC Foundation is composed of community volunteers committed to the advancement of opportunities in support of higher education for people in the CNMI. The golf tournament is the NMC Foundation's signature event that raises funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"Saipan Computer Services has been a longtime supporter of the NMC Foundation," said NMC Foundation president Ivan Quichocho. "We are extremely thankful for the company's unwavering commitment to the college and to elevating higher education opportunities in the CNMI."

The golf tournament will be held at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort (West Course) with a shotgun start at 7am and will follow a medal play format. There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies.

Registration forms for the golf tournament can be downloaded from www.nmcnet.edu, or picked up at the Marianas Country Club, Saipan Country Club, Dandan Golf Range, Kingfisher Golf Links, and All Star Sporting Goods.

The entrance fee is $95 per player. Payments for the entrance fee can be made at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Triple J Motors, and the NMC Cashier.

Tournament prizes for first place for each of the six flights include cash and roundtrip tickets to various destinations in the Pacific on United Airlines. Hole-in-one prizes include a 2012 Hyundai Elantra donated by Triple J Motors, a roundtrip ticket on United Airlines, and one year of free golf at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

For more information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 Ext. 1050. ***(NMC)***

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

Today's edition of *John Gonzales LIVE* will feature the topic "Women Leadership in an Emerging Island Economy," with guests Florine Mendiola Hofschneider, CNMI Women's Association; Vice Speaker Felicidad "Daling" Taman Ogumoro, and Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao.

The program will air Wednesday and rebroadcast on Monday and Tuesday the following week, all during primetime viewing from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Ch. 14.

John Gonzales LIVE also rebroadcasts worldwide on the web on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com) on June 27, 2012, at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday, June 28, 2012, at 11am Chamorro Standard Time in the CNMI and Guam).

Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), OR emailing (johngonzaleslive@gmail.com).

On July 11, 2012, *John Gonzales LIVE* will feature the topic "Youth & Parenting: A Family Affair & A Balancing Act." ***(PR)***

Retiree seeks $378,010 award

A retiree asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI's Bankruptcy Division yesterday to award him $378, 010 in retirement share and administrative cost.

John A. Angello pointed out that bankruptcy judge Robert J. Faris had stated in his memorandum to dismiss the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition that "any other party wishing to assert an administrative expense must file an appropriate application or motion no later than June 29, 2012."

Therefore, Angello said, in the spirit of "*man amko* justice" he is moving Faris to order the Fund to pay him "$27,000 x 14 (normal years of remaining life expectancy), plus an administrative cost of $10 for this motion)" for his fair share of the "abusively-administered" Fund pie.

The retiree said he should get the payment before all the "grinning attorneys" gorge themselves with wanton and excessive fees for filing needless claims and counter claims and useless Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition and subsequent motions to keep the "litigious meter running."

Angello noted that Chapter 11 forms consisting of four pages are readily available for a non-attorney type to file with a $1,046 fee.

Angello said while it being a no-brainer that the Fund would be fighting an uphill battle to prove that it is a "person" and not a government unit in order to have standing to lawfully file a Chapter 11, the attorneys representing the Fund should be sanctioned and not paid for not advising the Fund "of this no-win situation." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

USDA is an equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Kilili: Health insurance rebates on the way

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Over 1,000 health insurance customers in the Northern Marianas will soon receive rebates on their premiums as a result of "Obamacare." The average rebate in the Marianas will be $782 for each qualifying family, according the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Insurance companies must pay the rebate by Aug. 1. The announcement came as the Supreme Court prepares possibly to overturn the new health care reform law this week.

"Families in the Northern Marianas are going to be very glad to get this rebate on their health insurance premiums," says Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who worked tirelessly to make sure the islands were covered by many of the important provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

Obamacare, as the Act is now called, requires that insurance companies spend at least 80 percent of customers' premiums on health care services. No more that 20 percent can be used for administrative overhead.

Beginning this year, insurers who do not spend at least 80 percent on care must rebate some of the premiums.

The $782 average rebate per insured household in the Northern Marianas is the third highest in the nation. Only in Guam and Vermont must insurance companies pay back a higher amount. The national average is $151 for each household.

"This is one more example of the benefits of the Obamacare law," Sablan said. "Making sure that insurance companies spend the premiums on health care for people who are sick or need to see their doctor, not on marketing expenses, salaries, and other overhead.

"This is why I fought long and hard to get some of the coverage of Obamacare extended to the Northern Marianas—so we would get a $100 million increase in Medicaid funding, consumer protections such as not charging women more for health insurance than men, lower drug costs for Seniors on Medicare, and the rebates from this 80/20 rule.

"This is why I pray that the Supreme Court does not kill Obamacare."

Nationwide, 12.8 million Americans who buy health insurances will be getting $1.1 billion in rebates in one of four ways:

- a rebate check in the mail;
- a lump sum reimbursement to their account if the premium was paid with a credit or debit care;
- a reduction in future premiums; or
- for employment based insurance their employer providing one of the above, or applying the rebate in a way that benefits its employees.

In the Northern Marianas, the Department of Health and Human Services reports, $291,586 in rebates will be distributed.

Consumers should receive a notice from their insurance company informing them of the 80/20 rule, whether their company met the standard, and, if not, what the rebate will be.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule Thursday whether to strike down the Affordable Care Act and the many benefits it provides to the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

AL HICKING/CNMI LAW REVISION

BAR DONATION

Each year the members of the CNMI Bar Association pay dues, of which a part is contributed to Micronesian Legal Services Corporation. This is the Bar Membership's way of supporting MLSC's pro bono work on behalf of indigent people in our community. The donation this year was presented by Bar president Sean Frink and administrative support staff Suzanne Steffey to Marianas Office staff Jane Mack, Dimitri Varmazis, Linda Wingenbach, Frank Rogopes, Polly Anne Sablan, Lolita Nazaire, and Juanette Sablan.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CORPORATE DIRECTOR
(UNGRADED)

Opening Date: June 18, 2012 **Closing Date:** July 6, 2012
Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950
Salary: $70,000 per annum – Commensurate with education and experience.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and **submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form AND required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 6, 2012, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than Friday, July 6, 2012, to the Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jskaipat@nmhcgov.net NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner: Lydia Valera Parks

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LYDIA VALERA PARKS, Petitioner, vs.	CIVIL ACTION FCD-DI NO. 12-0087
STEPHEN FRANCIS PARKS, Respondent.	SUMMONS

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT, STEPHEN FRANCIS PARKS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the **PETITION FOR DIVORCE**, a copy of which is given to you herewith. You have Twenty (20) Days after service of this Summons upon you to file an answer with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewee, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. Your answer should be in writing. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. You are to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**, as soon as practicable after filing your answer to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

SO ORDERED on this 17th day of February, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

Jessamine Igitol & John Richard Atalig
P.O. Box 502586
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 322-7472 (H)
(670) 235-6260 (WK)

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint Delfina I. Russell and Stanley G. Russell As General Guardianship For: J.R.P.I.A.J. (10/19/1999), Minor Child	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0306 NOTICE OF HEARING
By: Jessamine Igitol and John Richard Atalig, Petitioners	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 28, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2012.

Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 27, 2002

Benavente approves $1.26M for CIP

Some $1.26 million in Capital Improvement Project funds could soon become available for several infrastructure projects on Saipan, just as soon as the local legislative delegation comes up with corrective legislation that would free up the money. Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente signed into law Wednesday two measures that conditionally appropriated $800,000 and $460,589 separately for road paving and well drilling projects on Saipan. Benavente pointed out, though, that the projects identified in House Bills 13-6 and 13-69 are outside the CIP Master Plan, as approved under Public Law 11-78.

Retention of Crowe law offices confirmed

Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente confirmed Tuesday that the Commonwealth has indeed hired the law offices of Washington D.C.-based Thomas Crowe to represent it in telecommunications matters. "It has actually been the law firm representing the Commonwealth in telecommunications matters in Washington D.C.," said Benavente. He expressed uncertainty on when the contract for the law firm was extended or if the contract has been extended "but we've always had services from Thomas Crowe in Washington D.C."

Jun. 27, 2003

Court orders illegal recruiter deported

The Superior Court has ordered the deportation of a woman allegedly involved in large-scale illegal recruitment of workers from the Philippines for fictitious jobs on Saipan and Palau. But Araceli Maraya, the Philippine's labor attaché to the Commonwealth, added that Edna A. Segovia managed to leave the CNMI last week and return to the Philippines before the matter could be coordinated with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. Segovia faces strict criminal sanctions in the Philippines for engaging in large-scale illegal recruitment in the Asian country.

Bill seeks to clarify definition of IR

House Rep. Stanley T. Torres has pre-filed a bill that seeks to modify the definition of "immediate relative" to include not only the spouse and children, but also stepchildren. The Saipan congressman acknowledged that the current definition of IR does not explicitly include stepchildren. This, according to Torres, has given rise to situations where children who have been adopted by locals and have lived here for many years are forced to leave the Commonwealth when they turn 21 because they did not become U.S. citizens or permanent residents. According to Torres, it has been a common occurrence that local residents marry individuals who already have children from their previous marriage. From there, he noted that, naturally, most people wish to adopt their new spouse's underage children in order to raise and care for them as their own.

Jun. 27, 2004

Warning out vs unregistered water users

The CNMI Water Task Force warned Friday that unregistered water users would be identified and disconnected when the government and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. begin a one-time sweep for identification and leak detection. According to Water Task Force chair Diego T. Benavente, contracts for a systematic leak detection program from reservoirs to CUC customers will soon be implemented in hopes to identify leak-prone areas and unregistered users. The effort will require digital correlators to accurately identify system leaks, categorize them based on volume loss, and report them for repair, he added.

House demands tinting study from DPS

The 14th House of Representatives is demanding a copy of a purported study that the Department of Public Safety had cited Friday in blaming the rising number of car accidents in the Commonwealth on the tinted windows of cars. Rep. Clyde Norita, in a media briefing, urged the DPS to submit a copy of the purported report that was cited by Commissioner Edward Camacho in disclosing plans to ban the use of tint on vehicles to decrease the number of traffic accidents. Camacho had said in the earlier interview that he is working with the Legislature to have the tints removed from CNMI vehicles due to the limited visibility afforded drivers. According to Norita, however, the measure, which was introduced by Rep. Benjamin Seman, only seeks to regulate the percentage of tint grade in car windows. He said it is still being reviewed by the House Judicial and Governmental Operations committee.

High court holds memorial rites for deputy marshal

Family, friends, justices, judges, and CNMI Judiciary staff join together at the memorial ceremonies held for the recently diseased CNMI Judiciary Deputy Marshal Manual Q. Tenorio.
CNMI JUDICIARY

Memorial services were held in the CNMI Supreme Court Courtroom on Tuesday, June 26, for Deputy Marshal Manuel Q. Tenorio, who passed away on June 20 of natural causes. He was 34.

The courtroom was filled with members of his family, friends, the justices, judges, and staff of the CNMI Judiciary, Department of Public Safety officers, and U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona. The ceremony involved the presentation of Tenorio's uniform and badges to his family for use in the funeral and burial on Thursday, June 28.

Acting chief justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Judge David A. Wiseman in their remarks praised Tenorio for his professionalism and distinguished service as a law enforcement officer. Chief Marshal Anthony Benavente expressed his own sense of loss of a friend and very valuable co-worker, his "go-to-man in many instances."

Tenorio

The family was presented with a large memorial plaque signed by all the justices and judges, the director, and deputy director of Courts and the members of the Marshal Service Division, which noted the late deputy marshal's seven years of exemplary service to the CNMI Judiciary. On a stand at the doorway to the service was a special picture of Tenorio at the work he loved, dressed in full marshal courtroom attire. Around the picture, which was gifted to the family after the service, were the signatures of all the Judiciary staff.

Manny, as he was known by his co-workers and friends, lived in Kannat Tabla and in his spare time enjoyed pool and darts and especially the time spent with children in a loving family environment. He is survived by his mother, Patricia Q. Echaluse, his father, Manuel C. Tenorio, his sister, and brother Vida and Mark Enhaluse and his common-law wife Neischangpi Satur.

Funeral Mass will be held at 2pm on Thursday, June 28, at the Tenorio residence in San Roque and a Christian burial is planned for 3pm at the San Roque Church. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

MVA opens China offices

MVA
Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, third from right, and staff welcome new representatives of the MVA's China and Japan offices to the MVA office on June 12, 2012. The new staff visited Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to become familiar with the destination. Seated from left are Japan information staff Tomoko Koyama, Beijing Travel Trade marketing manager Jill Wang, Beijing public relations manager Icy Wang, and Shanghai Travel Trade marketing manager Mito Qi. Standing from left are MVA marketing specialist Hiroko Tenorio, Japan Travel Trade director Nobuhiro Ariyoshi, MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman, Tenorio, China marketing director Jacky Zhu, and MVA marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has opened two offices in China to capitalize on the world's fastest growing outbound tourism market.

The MVA has appointed AVIAREPS Marketing Garden as the China representative of the Northern Mariana Islands in Beijing and Shanghai.

Chinese visitors are able to visit the islands of the Northern Marianas under a parole process much less cumbersome and less expensive than securing a U.S. visa. As of halfway through this fiscal year, arrivals from China have doubled to more than 44,000.

"China's outbound tourism market has huge potential for the Northern Mariana Islands," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The newly established China office will effectively promote and market Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to Chinese travel agents and consumers, enhancing our destination image awareness and providing a channel for MVA tourism information."

With a pristine tropical marine environment boasting beautiful beaches and tropic weather, the Northern Marianas are becoming well known to Chinese tourists. The islands are especially popular with families, honeymooners, and MICE groups because of their seaside locations and unique leisure activities. As the nearest U.S. territory to China, tourists can conveniently enjoy this beach resort destination only a few flying hours away.

"The new China representative office will work closely with colleagues from tourism and media to satisfy the needs of China's rapidly growing tourism market, providing the most updated and comprehensive tourism information about the Marianas to Chinese consumers," said Jacky Zhu, marketing director of MVA office in China. ***(MVA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 83rd birthday to our father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather Jesus Aguon Sablan of Finasisu! God bless you on your special day and the 83 years of life you have spent hear on earth and the many more years to come! We are very lucky to still have you around! En Guaiya hao tatan-mami para todu i tiempo! From your Sablan family!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Happy 14th wedding anniversary to Anthony and Claudia Leon Guerrero! Greetings come from EMC Calvo.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: June 25, 2012 **POSITION: Guest Relations Officer**
CLOSE DATE: July 2, 2012 **SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable**
Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Japanese Language highly preferred. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk or concierge services strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.

OPEN DATE: June 25, 2012 **POSITION: Cook (Korean Cuisine)**
CLOSE DATE: July 2, 2012 **SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable**
Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in culinary experience preferred. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE: June 25, 2012 **POSITION: Cook (Western Cuisine)**
CLOSE DATE: July 2, 2012 **SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable**
Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in culinary experience preferred. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE: June 25, 2012 **POSITION: Cook (Chinese Cuisine)**
CLOSE DATE: July 2, 2012 **SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable**
Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in culinary experience preferred. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE: June 25, 2012 **POSITION: Steward**
CLOSE DATE: July 2, 2012 **SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable**
Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. This position may require employee to receive certain food handler related health examinations and clearances before hire and continue to receive such examinations and clearances as a condition to their continued employment.

OPEN DATE: June 25, 2012 **POSITION: Housekeeping Attendant**
CLOSE DATE: July 2, 2012 **SALARY: Minimum Wage**
Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

OPEN DATE: June 25, 2012 **POSITION: Maintenance Repairer**
CLOSE DATE: July 2, 2012 **SALARY: Minimum Wage**
Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience preferred. Formal education / training in construction related field highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: June 25, 2012 **POSITION: Education/Training Coordinator**
CLOSE DATE: July 2, 2012 **SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable**
Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum three (3) year experience preferred. Human Resources / personnel management experience preferred. Excellent communications skills and presentation skills highly preferred.

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Team Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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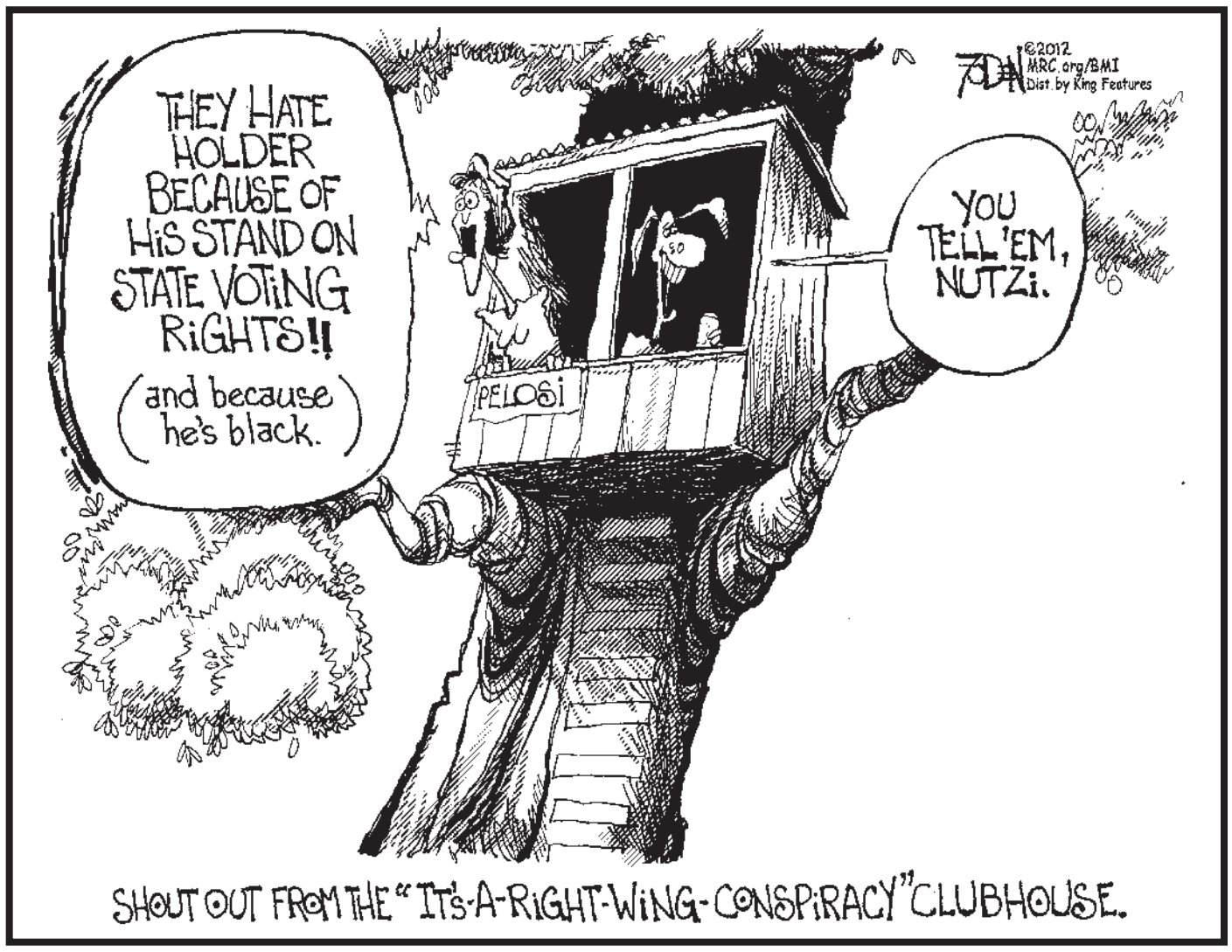
THEY HATE HOLDER BECAUSE OF HIS STAND ON STATE VOTING RIGHTS!!
(and because he's black.)
PELOSI
YOU TELL 'EM, NUTZi.
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SHOUT OUT FROM THE "IT's-A-RIGHT-WING-CONSPIRACY" CLUBHOUSE.

EDITORIAL

JoePa could have been a hero

Who would have thought, a year ago, that the name Jerry Sandusky would be as well known, maybe even more widely known, than that of his boss and patron, Joe Paterno?

Until the revelations that brought down Penn State's legendary football coach last year, Sandusky was nobody except among the most focused of football fans and the people who live—or have spent the best years of their lives—in State College, that small town compounded by a huge university in a hollow below Nittany Mountain, where Penn State stands at the heart of Pennsylvania like a Shangri-La.

Today, found guilty of 45 counts of sexual abuse, Sandusky resonates as a relic of a generation in which abuse was something that seemed to shame those who even learned of it. And it is the combination of Paterno's passive role and Sandusky's years of predation that make this a turning point in the fight against the sexual abuse of children.

Friday's verdicts should be an inspiration for victims of abuse to come forward, no matter where they are, no matter how prominent or beloved their abusers, to say: This happened to me and it was wrong. And if people didn't know about it, they should have.

In the olden days, reports of sexual abuse prompted many, whether priests or educators or even parents, to try to wish it away, hope they were wrong about what they thought they saw or heard or were told, and to grasp at the flimsiest of excuses to tell themselves they had done their part, done the best they could, fulfilled their responsibility. That it was not really that bad. That the kids would be fine.

This was Paterno's downfall. Being told that Sandusky was seen abusing a boy in a shower, Paterno told a superior—not the authorities as required by law—what he had heard. And then, no doubt gratefully, told himself it was out of his hands. And went on as if it hadn't happened.

When the revelations finally became public years later, Paterno, then 85, had not the instinct to realize what he had done, to swiftly resign and apologize profusely to the victims and the families and everyone he had let down, and then fade into a chastened but still perhaps dignified retirement.

As it is, he was fired and died a short time later of cancer. Paterno's fate is a tragedy. He probably should have retired long before the Sandusky case fell into his lap. He now passes to eternity less as a legendary coach than as that guy from Penn State who let a pedophile keep abusing kids.

To those who knew and revered him, it will forever feel as though he was the victim. But he had the power to make it different. He could have done the right thing all those years ago and spared future victims. Or he could at least have faced up to what happened and become a champion for victims of abuse. He could have been the hero.

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Washington needs a Plan B for Syria

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Kofi Annan, who's been assigned the hopeless task of resolving the Syrian crisis by diplomacy, is calling for "concerned nations"—including Russia and Iran—to confer this week in Geneva.

I sympathize with Annan, now the special Syria envoy of the United Nations and the Arab League. The Bosnian and Rwandan genocides happened while he was head of U.N. peacekeeping, and he desperately wants to prevent further slaughter in Syria. "The longer we wait, the darker Syria's future becomes," he rightly said last week, in a plea for key countries to develop a peace plan.

But here's the sad truth: Even though an unchecked civil war will devastate civilians, attract radical jihadis, and destabilize the entire region, diplomacy won't prevent this. It's time for a reality check on what the West can and can't do to curb the killing—and to prevent a new failed Islamist state.

First, let's dispense with the Annan Plan, which calls for a cease-fire, an end to violence, and the right of the opposition to protest freely, in Arab Spring fashion. This won't work because it would spell the end of the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and he will never accept it. As for the opposition, some leaders might have bought into negotiations early on, but no more; they won't sit down with a mass murderer.

Nor should anyone delude himself about easing Assad out of power—an option Europeans and the Obama team once hoped for. Russian officials bluntly reject any such plan. Last week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the radio station Echo Moskvy: "This scheme is, unequivocally, unworkable from the very beginning. Because he (Assad) won't go." Translation: We won't push him to go.

The issue is not Assad himself, but the survival of the regime, which is Russia's last Mideast ally. If Assad goes, his family cabal and the regime based on his Alawite (Shiite) sect would be in deep jeopardy. This is unacceptable to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who detests revolutions from below.

Finally, no one should pretend it's still possible to stop the flow of arms to Syrian combatants. "It is far too late to choose between nonviolence and militarization," rightly notes Steven Heydemann, a Syria expert at the U.S. Institute for Peace.

The Iranians are arming their Syrian ally, and the Russians don't hide the fact that they're bolstering Syrian air defenses and refurbishing Syrian attack helicopters.

Meantime, opposition fighters inside Syria—most of whom took up arms only after the regime started killing civilians—are buying weapons with funds from Syrians abroad and from Arab Gulf countries.

So what, if anything, should the United States do?

What we should not do, despite Sen. John McCain's pleas, is establish no-fly zones protected by U.S. air power. The Arizona Republican neglects to say that setting up such zones would require U.S. warplanes to bomb Damascus in order to take out Syrian air defenses that are supplied by Moscow. Washington would have no backing from the U.N. Security Council, and no likely support from NATO. Even Mitt Romney—despite his constant critiques of President Obama's foreign policy—rejects this option.

But that does not mean we should do nothing, even though this is the position of many on both sides of the aisle.

A long, drawn-out sectarian civil war in Syria that pits rebellious Sunnis against Assad's Shiite sect will destabilize the region—and provide a new haven for Islamist jihadis. If funding and arming the rebels is left entirely to Saudi Arabia and Qatar, the opposition will become dominated by Islamists and will continue to fragment.

Here is where the United States can play a critical role.

Syrian activist Amr al-Azm, a history professor at Shawnee State University, says Washington should be far more active in influencing which rebel groups get funding. "Right now you have a vacuum and anyone can jump in and set themselves up as warlords," says al-Azm, the son of the famous Syrian philosopher and fighter for intellectual freedom Sadiq al-Azm.

Al-Azm, and other non-Islamist activists, would like to see Washington channel funds from its allies to responsible fighting groups within Syria, and help them set up organizational structures—like provincial military councils.

The issue is not so much who buys the weapons, says al-Azm, but "how to get some control over what is flowing in and how (the weapons) are used."

This will require Washington to get our Arab allies to agree on a strategy for arming the rebels, who need help with intelligence and communications, along with antitank and antiaircraft weapons. It also means the CIA will need far better intelligence about what is going on inside Syria.

A more proactive strategy might convince Syrians—and Putin—that Washington is serious about wanting Assad gone, which could lead to more and bigger defections within Syria's military. "Putin understands the West has no stomach for a fight," says Al-Azm. "If the West puts its feet down, Putin might think differently."

The Annan plan was Plan A, and it's over. It's time for the White House to adopt Plan B.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Executive fiat cometh

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

One ponders when something positive would come cascading down Capital Hill to improve the lot of the simple folks in the villages. Or is the illustrious elected elite awaiting their trophy as the "train wreck of economic illiteracy" or heroic "do-nothing" rogues?

Or is this dysfunction caused by attention deficit disorders: amnesia, dyslexia or myopia forcing a trigger-happy leap into deafening silence, fearful of principle-based reasoning? Sorry if I'm a bit too crusty but then what else is there? Your deafening silence is disturbingly troubling.

The seemingly fatal mañana attitude draws attention to six long years without a roadmap or blueprint to guide any economic recovery effort. It further draws attention to the urgency: Is there anybody up there in charge of mapping or remapping the future of the CNMI? Could we reasonably expect some modicum of progress when the culprit is the lack of will by both sides to even meet?

Indeed, politics is interesting and equally frustrating. Inaction, bankruptcy and dystopia seem fitting descriptions of failure here. Sure, we're human: we don't always think things through, so we accept many ideas, including fatal inaction, as we grapple with uncertainty. We also look past certain truths without recognizing them. The obvious lack of a blueprint addressing economic recovery is one malfeasance or misfeasance that is inexcusable.

The other is the abrogation of fiduciary responsibility by lawmakers on policy matters. Are legislators without coconuts to insist on an economic recovery blueprint from the administration? Are you folks in collusion with them, boasting inconsequence wrapped in illusion and delusion?

No wonder the administration uses "executive fiat" to take over policy functions of various agencies. Legislators may abhor recent decrees but one must agree it's a master stroke that instantly paralyzes the sense of the Legislature from figuring out where is north. The least the Legislature could do is push for critical review of such decrees that may altogether be without constitutional foundation. It's time to fight back to secure the basic tenet that what government does is limited to the "consent of the governed." Nobody deserves the crowning achievement of inaction and misery from either branch of government.

■ ■ ■

NMI's bad biz climate

Incomprehensible the mindset of half-cocked legislators who brave forging legislation to cut tax rebates while increasing BGRT to pay for the inadequacies of the imperiled Retirement Fund.

Two things are fatally wrong and off course with these proposals: 1). Why would employees and employers in private industries makeup for something (pension program) they are not a part of? Why would you want to discourage reviving investment by saddling potential investors with an obligation that is rightfully the purview of the public sector?

Isn't it true that in recent months, counties, cities and states that have raised taxes—hoping for increased revenue—found out it had a completely opposite result? Isn't it true that more businesses have moved to nearby states where taxes are low with less stifling regulations? The net effect is simple: more businesses relocated quicker than the collection of taxes emanating from discouraging tools that wiped out investments. Same here too, people. Must retreat and figure out the actual culprit in the exodus of exogenous investments.

■ ■ ■

Imperial immigration policy

President Obama had to take out the wind from Sen. Marco Rubio's Dream Act and simultaneously send the GOP reeling for answers. Would he secure Latino votes? Definitely! Would he lose other votes like young Americans and a legion of jobseekers displaced from jobs when Obama's use imperialistic executive authority? Definitely!

Obama did nothing but divide the country with social issues such as immigration. This policy, however, won't last given that it would be rescinded immediately upon his ouster from office. It doesn't leave much hope for recipients nor did it allow employers time to engage in long term planning by hiring employees that are here today, gone tomorrow. But the liberal media calls it a political masterstroke.

Next, he issued another imperialistic order denying the U.S. House of Representatives' oversight committee documents it has requested for over a year. Constitutional experts say his use of executive privilege is an overreach given that he never met the criteria for such authority. It doesn't deal with national security or ultra-sensitive foreign affairs issues.

He certainly has riled up the angst of opposing politicians and has sent the entire country into acrimonious polemics that would ring loud all over for the next couple of weeks. It goes to show his disconnect with issues and special ability to use distractions to avoid addressing his failed economic policy.

I admire his morphing "Fast and Furious" to "False and Vicious."

Perhaps the more relevant query that popped up at a certain book signing of Obama's self-inflicted contradictions was: Is he merely incompetent or was this wreckage intentional? With Obama's abysmal failure and litany of broken promises, what do you make of the smoldering heap of discontent and colossal disaster on jobs for over 10 million jobless folks?

■ ■ ■

Miscellany

The gathering of politicians in regional or international meetings is pointless and very expensive and of what benefit to taxpayers? It's a good place for photo-ops and listen to keynote speakers regurgitate what we already know in addition to taking home trashy resolutions that will never be read again. Whatever happened to moral humility?

■ ■ ■

In the midst of all the felicitations fortuitously exchanged by APIL delegates, the NMI has yet to fork out a concrete roadmap to economic recovery. The absence of such a blueprint leaves behind the question whether people on the hill even care about forging a reasonable plan to follow amidst the deepening bad business climate.

Didn't the red gals and guys just launch their return to the campaign trail? What are they peddling this time? Well, the deeply ingrained perception by voters of grand failure by this administration is sufficient a seed already germinated for this midterm election. Welcome to the Garden of Change!

■ ■ ■

Laughter

Joke from Jay Leno: It was 100 degrees in New York City. It was so hot, you know Solyndra, the solar company? They actually made money. It was so hot, Attorney General Eric Holder was selling water guns to Mexican drug gangs.

Obama's directive to halt youth deportation is a welcome first step

By JUSTIN AKERS CHACON
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

For hundreds of thousands of undocumented youth living in the United States, President Obama's recent Department of Homeland Security memo halting their deportations has provided a tremendous sense of relief.

More than 1.1 million undocumented immigrants have been deported since the beginning of the Obama administration, including many youth who would have been spared by this new rule.

The crackdown has separated families and pushed millions of workers and students deeper into the shadows. And it has disrupted regional economies as immigrants flee to avoid the cruel and restrictive laws snowballing across several states.

Deportation advocates have contended that this crackdown is making society safer. But a recent Syracuse University study analyzing the trends in immigration enforcement over the years has shown that the majority of those who are deported each year have not committed any crime.

The average undocumented immigrant has lived in the country for 10 years and has established deep roots in the community, according to the Pew Hispanic Center. This is why the president can say that most undocumented youth are "Americans … in every single way except one — on paper."

But to make a real difference, these youth need something more than a Homeland Security memo; they will need citizenship.

Obama's order requires the Department of Homeland Security to cease the deportations of up to an estimated 1.4 million young people. To qualify, they must have come to the United States before age 16, have been in the country for at least five years, have no criminal record, and be enrolled in or have completed high school or military service. Those who qualify can apply for two-year renewable work permits.

The policy only defers deportation for the duration of the permit; it does not remove the threat altogether. It also leaves out millions, including the parents and family members of the same youths who have qualified for the reprieve. As the president stated in his announcement speech, "This is not a path to citizenship. It's not a permanent fix."

That's the problem. The limited scope of this change leaves multiple barriers and an uncertain future in place. The new Homeland Security rule is not a law and can be rescinded by any sitting president.

Without a path to citizenship these youth will still be stuck in a second-class status that prevents them from gaining financial support for college, denies them access to good jobs, excludes them from government programs and service, and keeps them in legal limbo.

This is why many of the undocumented youth activists — known as "Dreamers" — have pledged to continue their highly public self-advocacy campaigns until they achieve full legal status. Halting the deportations of young people is the first step in breaking with the failed immigration policies that have created the mess that we're now in. But more will be needed.

We need a new approach that keeps families together, offers the full promise of a better life for immigrant youth and their families and strengthens the social and economic well-being of communities across the country.

We need to offer a path to citizenship.

Justin Akers Chacon is a professor of U.S. history and Chicano studies in San Diego. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine.*

The world is your oyster, grads, but only if you pry it open

By BRUCE RAMSEY
THE SEATTLE TIMES

It is the time of year to dish out advice to graduates. Here is mine. Some time in your life, live outside the United States. Not only will you be in another world, you will more clearly see the world you came from, and who you are.

Sometimes it changes you. I recently argued that the U.S. government was acting wrongly in letting its embassy and consulates in China be used as sanctuaries. Readers emailed me for and against. Many of those who agreed with me said they had worked overseas.

So had I. From 1989 to 1993 I worked in Hong Kong as a magazine editor—and probably I would not have written that column otherwise.

Americans see themselves as a practical people, but from Hong Kong, Americans in their political aspect seemed like a sentimental people, a naive people. Ross Perot was running for president then, and he threatened to stop trading with China.

To people in great big America, maybe such an action was thinkable; in Hong Kong, it was nuts. Our vegetables came from China. Our drinking water came from China. Perot seemed to have no understanding of the history, or the culture, of the Middle Kingdom.

That the Hong Kong people had a different view of it did not automatically make them right. About China, I thought they were. On other things, though, being overseas showed me how American I was, and in ways I was proud of.

One time I was sick and went to a doctor. After he examined me I had to wait outside his office for my prescription. A nurse called me to a window with bottles of pills.

"Take a red one every four hours and a white one twice a day," she said.

"What are they?" I asked.

"They are your medication," she said impatiently.

"Yeah, but ... What are they?"

"The doctor will have to tell you that, and he is with another patient. Shall I make another appointment?"

At that moment I had no sympathy for the culture around me.

I worked with people from a dozen countries. All were changed by working abroad, those from traditional cultures most of all.

A colleague from Pakistan told me that after living in a cosmopolitan city for several years, he could not go back to a traditional culture. He was contaminated. I never heard a Westerner say that, but I heard plenty say that being abroad had changed their thinking.

Politically, they seemed less supportive of America throwing its weight around. It is more difficult to condemn a people, impose economic pain on them or drop bombs on them after you have lived among them—or among any people different from you. The world outside the United States seems much more immovable when you are in it.

I was a kid when the Peace Corps started, and I remember the hoopla about all the good it was going to do. It was going to change the world. I became skeptical of that, and decades later, when I met the agency's director, I pressed her on it.

The agency's improvement of the world was difficult to measure, she said. But one thing was sure. The Peace Corps had changed the young Americans who were in it. The experience opened their eyes. It set them on tracks to new careers—in academia, in the diplomatic service, in global business. It gave them friends overseas and joined them to a fraternity of former volunteers who recognized each other for the rest of their lives.

And though I had never been in it, I knew what she was talking about.

Bruce Ramsey is a columnist for The Seattle Times*. His email address is bramsey@seattletimes.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

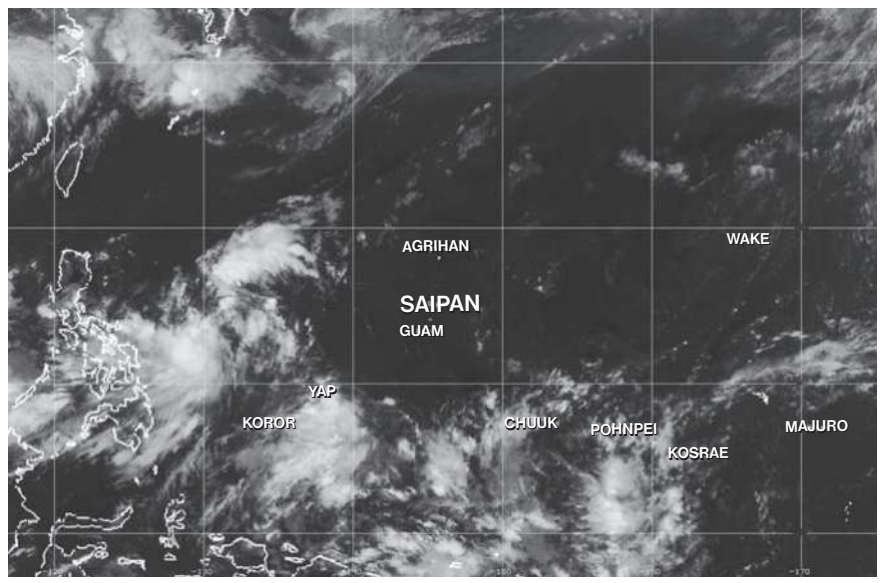
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼65
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
London	Showers	▲70	▼63
Los Angeles	Showers	▲79	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼60
Osaka	Cloudy	▲79	▼69
Paris	Thundershowers	▲82	▼67
Pusan	Showers	▲75	▼68
Rome	Sunny	▲90	▼70
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼66
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲77	▼65
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲83	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward across 14N130E through a circulation northwest of Yap and Koror at 14N133E which is now the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert. The monsoon trough continues southeastward across Chuuk state to end near Pohnpei near 5N156E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northwest of Koror and Yap between 11N and 19N from 130E to 136E southeast of Koror and Yap between 3N and 9N from 136E to 142E and just southwest of Chuuk between 4N and 8N from 145E to 152E. For more information about invest area 95W refer to WTPN21 PGTW from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. A surface trough extends northeast from EQ158E to 6N161E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 155E to 162E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
2:13 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:14 PM	
Thursday	1:10 PM	12:21 AM
Friday	2:10 PM	1:08 AM
Saturday	3:12 PM	1:59 AM
Sunday	4:15 PM	2:54 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

A.M. Best affirms ratings of Century Insurance Co.

HONG KONG—A.M. Best Co. has affirmed the financial strength rating (FSR) of B++ (Good) and issuer credit rating (ICR) of "bbb" of Century Insurance Company (Guam) Ltd. (CIC Guam) (Guam). The outlook for the ICR has been revised to positive from stable, while the outlook for the FSR remains stable. A.M. Best has also affirmed the FSR of B+ (Good) and ICR of "bbb-" of Century Insurance Co., Ltd. (CIC Saipan) (Northern Mariana Islands). The outlook for both ratings is stable.

The ratings for CIC Guam reflect its solid risk-adjusted capitalization and continuous profitable underwriting results. The ratings also acknowledge the company's position as the key insurance arm of Tan Holdings Corporation (THC) and the support it receives from its parent company.

CIC Guam's capitalization level has substantially improved after the additional capital injection of USD 5 million from THC in June 2010. Its risk-adjusted capitalization, as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio, is solid and supportive of its current ratings. The 100 percent tax rebate entitlement granted by the Guam Economic Development Authority also helps to strengthen the company's capital base. Given its modest business projections, CIC Guam's capitalization is expected to remain adequate in the near term.

CIC Guam has been posting underwriting profits every year since its inception. The positive underwriting income is mainly attributed to its favorable loss ratio with a five-year average of approximately 34 percent. To protect itself from any sizable loss, the company has been extensively using reinsurance programs to mitigate its inherent catastrophe exposures over the years.

Offsetting factors include CIC Guam's high expense ratio, significant amount of overdue insurance receivables and its volatile loss reserve development.

As a result of management's efforts, CIC Guam successfully decreased its expense ratio by approximately 6 percent in 2011. However, it is still at a relatively high level compared to other domestic players. Also, the large amount of overdue insurance receivables, which is mainly from its exclusive managing general agent, led to a lower level of admitted assets and surplus.

In addition, CIC Guam's loss reserve development has been volatile since inception. Given its relatively short operating history and unfavorable loss reserve development record in the past two years, A.M. Best will closely monitor CIC Guam's reserving practice going forward.

CIC Guam's ratings could be considered for positive rating actions if it is able to lower its expense ratio and continue to demonstrate profitable underwriting results, as well as maintain its solid risk-adjusted capitalization level.

Conversely, negative rating actions could occur if there is a material decline in the company's risk-adjusted capitalization level and a deterioration of its operating performance.

The ratings for CIC Saipan reflect its adequate risk-based capitalization level as well as its leading position in the local non-life insurance market. The ratings also acknowledge the support the company receives from its parent, THC.

CIC Saipan's risk-adjusted capitalization, as measured by BCAR, is supportive of its ratings. Given its modest business projections, A.M. Best expects that its capitalization will remain adequate in the near term.

As the first full-fledged insurance company in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CIC Saipan maintains its market leader position in the region. The withdrawal of competitors from the CNMI market in recent years has also strengthened its dominant position in the market.

Offsetting factors include CIC Saipan's volatile underwriting results, unfavorable loss reserve development and the unfavorable economic environment in Saipan.

CIC Saipan's top line has been gradually declining over the past five years as a result of the economic downturn on Saipan. The small size of its book and the significant amount of acquisition costs have contributed to CIC Saipan's volatile underwriting performance in the same period. In the past two years, the company also has encountered unfavorable loss reserve development as evidenced by its sizable amount of reserve deficiencies.

CIC Saipan's ratings could be considered for positive rating actions if the company is able to demonstrate stable and profitable underwriting results, as well as maintain its adequate risk-adjusted capitalization level.

Conversely, its ratings could be downgraded if there were a material decline in its risk-adjusted capitalization level and a deterioration of its operating performance.

The methodology used in determining these ratings is Best's Credit Rating Methodology, which provides a comprehensive explanation of A.M. Best's rating process and contains the different rating criteria employed in the rating process. Key criteria utilized include: "Catastrophe Analysis in A.M. Best Ratings"; "Evaluating Country Risk"; and "Understanding BCAR for Property/Casualty Insurers." Best's Credit Rating Methodology can be found at www.ambest.com/ratings/methodology .

Founded in 1899, A.M. Best Company is the world's oldest and most authoritative insurance rating and information source. For more information, visit www.ambest.com. ***(Business Wire)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Facebook names 1st woman, Sandberg, to board

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook's No. 2 executive, Sheryl Sandberg, has become the first woman on the social-networking company's board of directors. Sandberg was lured from Google in 2008 to become Facebook's chief operating officer. Besides being the first woman, she is the first Facebook executive other than founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg on the board. There had been calls for the company to add women to its board ahead of its initial public offering of stock in mid-May.

Oil falls to below $79 amid EU summit doubts

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil fell slightly to below $79 a barrel Tuesday in Asia, taking its cue from weak global stock markets as hopes fade an EU summit will fix Europe's debt and economic problems. Benchmark oil for August delivery was down 30 cents at $78.91 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 55 cents to settle at $79.21 in New York on Monday. It has fallen from $106 early last month as signs of a global economic slowdown mount.

T-Mobile USA to buy, swap spectrum with Verizon

NEW YORK (AP)—Verizon Wireless on Monday said that it has agreed to sell some wireless spectrum rights to T-Mobile USA and swap others, in a continuing quest to get regulators to approve a bigger spectrum deal it has worked out with a consortium of cable companies and another wireless carrier. The deal with T-Mobile USA would improve the ability of both companies to offer fast wireless data services, Verizon said. T-Mobile, the fourth-largest U.S. wireless company, is particularly starved for spectrum compared to its larger competitors, and regulators are likely to favor a deal that would improve its position.

Spain's banks, government co-dependent on debt

AP

In this June 16, 2012, file photo, a demonstrator holds a life saver in front of the headquarters of Bankia bank during a protest against the Spanish bank in Madrid, Spain.

MADRID (AP)—The Spanish government and Spanish banks are perilously co-dependent.

The financial strength of one hinges on the other, and right now both are struggling for survival.

The Spanish economy, the fourth-largest among the 17 countries that use the euro, is suffering from the aftershocks of a real estate bust that has devastated banks and families. Unemployment is nearly 25 percent and the economy is forecast to shrink 1.7 percent in 2012.

At the request of the Spanish government, euro countries offered up to (EURO)100 billion ($125 billion) in rescue loans for Spanish banks on June 9.

Spain made the formal petition for the aid on Monday, but the terms of the loans—including the size and interest rates—have yet to be agreed. They are expected to be made public by July 9 and will likely be discussed at a European Union leaders' summit that starts Thursday in Brussels.

The bank bailout, however, has only made investors more nervous about Spain's financial condition.

Although Spanish banks will agree to pay back the loans with interest, it is the Spanish government that is on the hook if they cannot. In effect, the bank loans will be treated as government debt. And as the country's debt load rises, so does the interest rate it pays to borrow money, a sign that the pool of investors hungry for Spanish bonds is shrinking.

Microsoft buying Internet startup Yammer for $1.2B

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft is buying Internet startup Yammer for $1.2 billion in an attempt to bring Facebook-like sharing features to its widely used suite of business software applications.

Yammer specializes in creating private social networks so employees within the same company can keep tabs on what colleagues are working on. That's similar to how Facebook's online social network allows friends and families to track what's happening in each other's personal lives.

The deal, announced Monday, comes nearly two weeks after word of Microsoft's negotiations with Yammer first leaked out in published reports.

The acquisition represents Microsoft's latest attempt to adapt to a major shift in the technology industry, one that is fueling demand for more Internet-connected services and social-networking tools.

The upheaval is threatening to marginalize Microsoft Corp., the world's largest software maker, and ultimately diminish the amount of money coming in from sales of its Windows operating system and a wide range of applications designed primarily for personal computers.

As part of its effort to remain relevant, Microsoft paid $8.5 billion last year for Internet video chat service Skype in the largest acquisition in its history.

In another bold move, Microsoft last week unveiled its own tablet computer, Surface, to compete with Apple Inc.'s iPad. Microsoft has designed Surface to run on the upcoming Windows 8, the biggest change to the company's operating system in nearly two decades.

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer is counting on Yammer's sharing tools to ensure that long-established Microsoft applications, including its word processing and spreadsheet programs, remain vital components for getting work done. Google Inc. has emerged as a threat with a toolbox of similar programs that run primarily over the Internet rather than on individual machines.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,502.66	1,313.72	2,836.16
-138.12	-21.30	-56.26
-1.09%	-1.60%	-1.95%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0013	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7604	Philippine Peso	42.6803
British Pound	0.6423	Indian Rupee	57.0776	Singapore Dollar	1.2817
Canadian Dollar	1.0282	Indonesian Rupiah	9,478.6	South Korean Won	1,164.0
Chinese Yuan	6.3295	Japanese Yen	80.0000	Swiss Franc	0.9600
Euro	0.7993	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2216	Taiwan Dollar	29.9940
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2707	Thailand Baht	31.8674

Nation

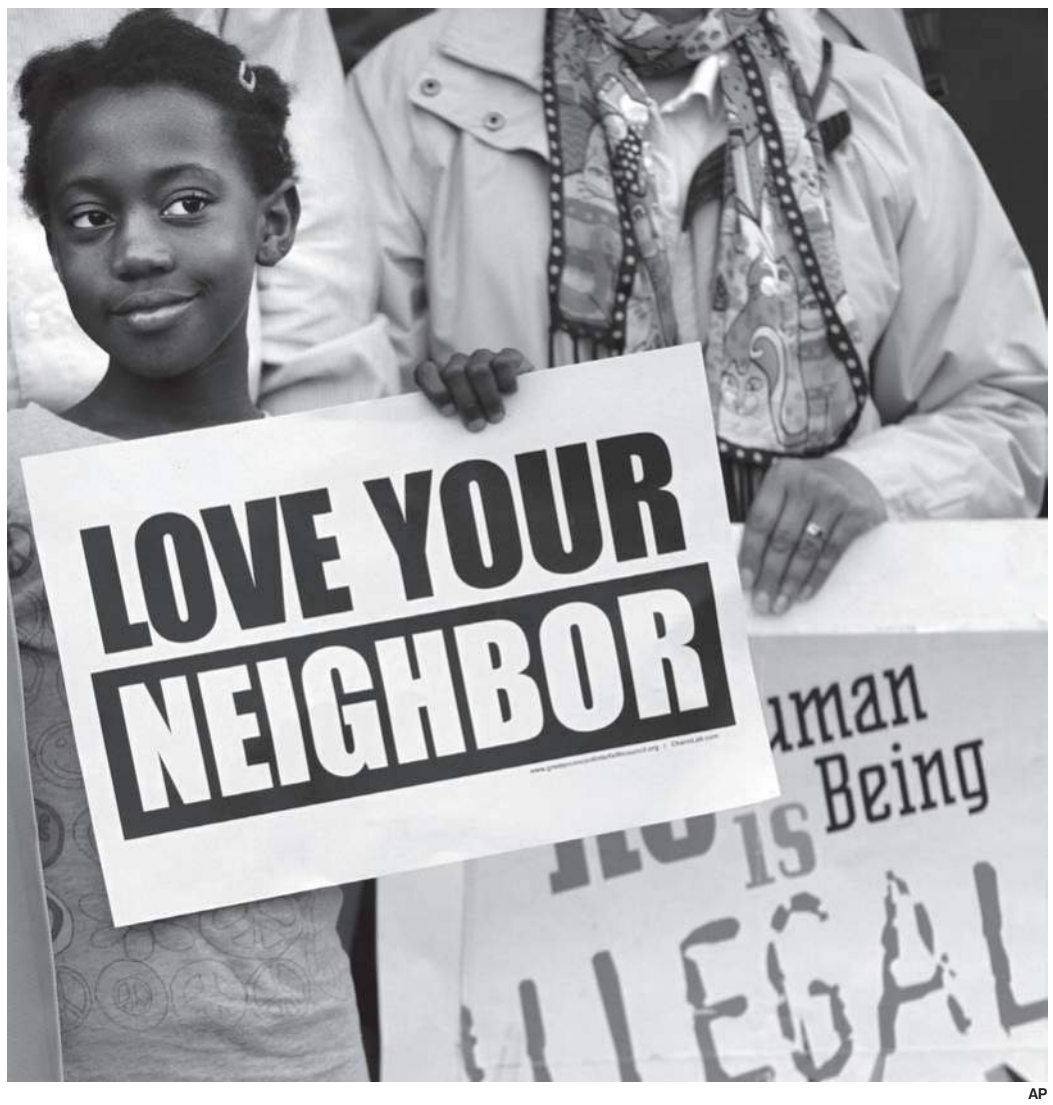
High court limits state action on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—A divided Supreme Court threw out major parts of Arizona's tough crackdown on illegal immigrants Monday in a ruling sure to reverberate through the November elections. The justices unanimously approved the law's most-discussed provision—requiring police to check the immigration status of those they stop for other reasons—but limited the consequences.

Although upholding the "show me your papers" requirement, which some critics say could lead to ethnic profiling, the justices struck down provisions that created state crimes allowing local police to arrest people for federal immigration violations. And they warned against detaining people for any prolonged period merely for not having proper immigration papers.

The mixed outcome vindicated the Obama administration's aggressive challenge to laws passed by Arizona and the five states—Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah—that followed its lead in attempting to deal with illegal immigration in the face of federal inaction on comprehensive reform.

The administration had assailed the Arizona law as an unconstitutional intrusion into an area under federal control.



AP

Fartun Sengow, from Somalia, now living in Concord, N,H., holds a sign during a rally for immigrants and refugees at the State House in Concord, in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on Arizona's immigration law on Monday, June 25, 2012.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, joined in his majority opinion by conservative Chief Justice John Roberts as well as three liberal justices, said the impasse in Washington over immigration reform did not justify state intrusion.

"Arizona may have understandable frustrations with the problems caused by illegal immigration while that process continues, but the state may not pursue policies that undermine federal law," Kennedy said. That part of the ruling drew a caustic dissent from Justice Antonin Scalia, who said the Obama administration doesn't want to enforce existing immigration law.

A second opinion with potentially important implications for the presidential campaign is expected when the court meets Thursday to issue its final rulings this term. The court's verdict on Obama's landmark health care overhaul probably will come that day.

In other action Monday, the court:

■ Ruled unconstitutional by a 5-4 vote state laws that require judges to impose sentences of life in prison with no possibility of parole on convicted murderers younger than 18.

■ Struck down, also 5-4, a Montana law limiting corporate campaign spending, declining to revisit the two-year-old ruling in the Citizens United case.

The Arizona decision landed in the middle of a presidential campaign in which President Barack Obama has been heavily courting Latino voters and Republican challenger Mitt Romney has been struggling to win Latino support. During a drawn-out primary campaign, Romney and the other GOP candidates mostly embraced a hard line on the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants, though Romney has lately taken a softer tone.

Obama said he was pleased that the court struck down key parts of Arizona's law but was concerned about what the high court left intact.

"No American should ever live under a cloud of suspicion just because of what they look like," the president said in a written statement. He said police in Arizona should not enforce the provision in a way that undermines civil rights.

"What this decision makes unmistakably clear is that Congress must act on comprehensive immigration reform," Obama said.

Obama criticizes Romney's 'outsourcing' jobs

BOSTON (AP)—President Barack Obama, campaigning in Mitt Romney's backyard, criticized his Republican rival anew Monday for what his reelection campaign says is a record of shipping American jobs overseas.

"Gov. Romney's commitment to outsourcing is not just part of his record, it's part of his overall economic vision that he and Republicans in Congress want to implement if they win this election," Obama said.

The Obama campaign has seized on reports that the private equity firm Romney once ran made investments in companies that were described as "pioneers" in outsourcing jobs to China and India. The Romney campaign says the reports do not differentiate between "domestic outsourcing" and "offshoring" and don't take into account work done overseas to support U.S. exports.

During a campaign event in New Hampshire, Obama said that explanation would do little to satisfy workers who have had their jobs moved overseas.

"You don't need someone trying to explain to you the difference between outsourcing and offshoring," he said. "You need someone who's going to wake up every single day and fight for American jobs and investments here in the United States."

The president, with his suit coat off and his shirt-sleeves rolled up, wiped sweat off his face during his 30 minute remarks to a 1,200-person crowd crammed into a hot Oyster River High School gymnasium in Durham, N.H. Later, he spoke to a boisterous crowd of about 1,800 at Symphony Hall in Boston.

Romney campaign spokesman Ryan Williams said Obama was resorting to "false and discredited attacks to divert attention from his abysmal economic record."

Obama's first stops on a two-day, four-state campaign trip were taking him into Romney's backyard. The presumptive Republican nominee has a vacation home in New Hampshire and served as governor of neighboring Massachusetts, where Obama went for an evening of campaign fundraisers.

As Obama arrived at Symphony Hall on Monday evening, a sizable crowd of onlookers gathered and a group of Romney supporters held a large blue Romney sign and chanted, "Mitt-Mitt-Mitt." A group of Obama supporters chanted back, "O-Bama" and "Yes, We Can."

Lawyer: Jerry Sandusky insists he's not guilty

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—As Jerry Sandusky insisted through a lawyer Monday that he is not guilty of sexually abusing children, a juror who voted to convict the retired Penn State assistant coach said she hoped the verdict would help his accusers heal.

The jury found the testimony of the eight victims who took the witness stand compelling, Ann Van Kuren said Monday. Jurors weighed the accounts and evidence diligently before finding Sandusky guilty last week of 45 counts for sexually abusing 10 boys over 15 years, she said.

She expressed empathy for the eight men who offered emotional and explicit testimony.

"I really feel for the victims and any other victims that are out there that haven't come forward," Van Kuren said. "That all of them need to heal. I'm hoping that this trial, with this verdict, will help them heal."

The sweeping case rocked the Penn State community following Sandusky's arrest in November. The ensuing scandal led to the ousters of Sandusky's former boss—Hall of Fame coach Joe Paterno—and the university's president, while forcing a re-examination of the role that college administrators played in reporting abuse allegations.

Sandusky, 68, is under observation at the Centre County jail, where he is being kept away from other inmates pending a psychological review that will help determine the next step toward his sentencing in about three months.

"He's defiant and wants the truth to be told. He wants people to know that he's not guilty," said defense lawyer Karl Rominger, who visited his incarcerated client Monday.

Also Monday, Judge John Cleland ordered county probation officers to evaluate whether Sandusky is a sexual predator, a finding that could factor into his prison placement. Such orders are pro forma in sex abuse cases. Sex offenders are required to undergo treatment while in prison, so Sandusky, if deemed a predator, would likely be sent to a facility with such a program.

Sandusky, who has been placed under a suicide watch, said he doesn't want to kill himself and wants to get the separate psychological examination done so that he can receive visits from his friends and family, Rominger said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tropical Storm Debby soaks Florida's Gulf Coast

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Practically parked off Florida's Gulf Coast since the weekend, Tropical Storm Debby raked the Tampa Bay area with high wind and heavy rain Monday in a drenching that could top 2 feet over the next few days and trigger widespread flooding. At least one person was killed Sunday by a tornado spun off by the large storm system in Florida, and Alabama authorities searched for a man who disappeared in the rough surf. An estimated 35,000 homes and businesses lost electricity. But as of midafternoon, the slow-moving storm had caused only scattered damage, including flooding in some low-lying areas.

Final steel beam lifted at 4 World Trade Center

NEW YORK (AP)—A final steel beam was lifted Monday atop a new World Trade Center skyscraper—the first expected to open at the site next year since the twin towers were decimated on 9/11. With gospel superstar BeBe Winans offering a powerful rendition of "God Bless America," workers raised their hardhats in tribute as the mammoth beam rose slowly into the Manhattan sky, swaying from a steel rope hoisted by a crane. A U.S. flag attached to the bottom of the beam fluttered above several hundred spectators at the topping-off ceremony.

Casino owner's $2 million gift surprises Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—To LeRoy Stapleton, $500 could mean the difference between prolonged homelessness and finding a job that could get him back on his feet. "It would be a big help," said Stapleton, who lined up with 30 other people outside a Las Vegas unemployment office Monday morning waiting for it to open. "You need money to make money. If I had some gas, I could find a job." A Las Vegas casino owner's anonymous gift of $500 each to 4,000 southern Nevada families in recent months has had tongues wagging in a state with the highest unemployment rate in the nation. The $2 million gift to the United Way of Southern Nevada was the charitable organization's largest donation to date, and for months, guessing the identity of the donor became a popular pastime in Las Vegas.

Asia

Myanmar's Suu Kyi to appeal ruling in home dispute

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi will appeal a court ruling in favor of her estranged American brother's claim to half-ownership of the two-story lakeside villa she has lived in for almost a quarter century, her lawyer said Monday.

The property, perched on a prime spot on Yangon's Inya Lake, has been at the center of a bitter legal dispute between the two siblings since 2000.

A district court in the city issued its verdict Friday, confirming that Aung San Oo had inheritance rights to the property, Suu Kyi's lawyer Nyan Win said.

It was not clear, however, whether the verdict would have any impact on the estate's fate or whether Aung San Oo would be able to benefit from it. Foreigners are legally forbidden from owning or selling property in the Southeast Asian nation, and Suu Kyi's brother is a U.S. citizen currently residing in California.

The 0.8-hectare (2-acre) strip of land was given by the government to Suu Kyi's mother Khin Kyi after her husband, independence hero Gen. Aung San, was assassinated in 1947. Khin Kyi died in 1988.

The roots of the dispute between Suu Kyi and her brother are the subject of widespread speculation, though some say Aung San Oo has disagreed with Suu Kyi's political views and many believe he may have been influenced by the brutal former military junta, which ceded power last year.

Suu Kyi spent 15 of the last two decades confined to the disputed Yangon property, but Aung San Oo never visited her there during those years despite making almost annual trips home.

The family's quarrel became public in 2000 when Aung San Oo sued for partial ownership of the estate. A Yangon court threw out the case in 2001 citing procedural errors. But Suu Kyi's brother filed a new suit again claiming joint-ownership.

Civil cases can take years to work their way through Myanmar's court system.

In this Aug. 4, 2011 photo released by Human Rights Watch, a Kachin refugee holds her baby at a shelter near the Chinese-Myanmar border in Yunnan province, China. AP

PH: Chinese boats leave disputed lagoon

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China has withdrawn its boats from the lagoon of a tiny South China Sea shoal following an agreement with the Philippines that at least temporarily eases the countries' territorial dispute, officials in Manila said Monday.

The Philippine government pulled out its two vessels from Scarborough Shoal on June 15, and President Benigno Aquino III last week threatened to send them back unless China also withdrew.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said that he had received information that all boats had left the shoal's lagoon as of Saturday. He said earlier that China and the Philippines had reached a verbal agreement to pull out from the lagoon. Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez later said an unspecified number of Chinese ships remained in the wider vicinity of the shoal.

Both countries claim the territory. Tensions flared in April when the Philippines accused Chinese fishermen of poaching within its exclusive economic zone, which includes the shoal. China responded by sending paramilitary vessels to protect the fishermen.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said at a regular briefing in Beijing that the situation at the Huangyan Islands—the Chinese name for Scarborough Shoal—"is overall toward peace." He did not comment on the Philippines' statement that Chinese vessels had withdrawn from the lagoon.

He said that Chinese vessels "have been running the ... islands and the nearby waters and standing on alert."

The horseshoe-shaped shoal, a popular hunting ground for Filipino and Chinese fishermen, is one of the hundreds of tiny outcrops and islands dotting the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes and an area believed to be rich in natural gas and oil.

China, the Philippines, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam claim the nearby Spratly Islands, where disputes have occasionally triggered naval clashes. A nonbinding 2002 accord discourages aggressive acts that could spark fighting.

On Philippine-controlled Pag-asa Island, Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon announced Sunday the opening of a small kindergarten for a tiny community of Filipino settlers. In Beijing, Lei responded to the kindergarten by saying that his government opposed "any action that violates China's jurisdiction."

"We hope relevant countries comply with the laws and do not engage in acts that will aggravate the South China Sea tension," he said.

The United States, meanwhile, dispatched a nuclear-powered submarine to the former U.S. base at Subic in the northwestern Philippines facing the South China Sea.

The American Embassy in Manila said the USS Louisville was making a routine port call to highlight historic and military relations with the Philippines. It was the second publicly announced visit of a U.S. submarine in recent months amid the tensions between China and the Philippines, as Manila turns to Washington for military aid.

China urged to safeguard refugees from Myanmar

BANGKOK (AP)—As many as 10,000 ethnic Kachin refugees who fled Myanmar are facing food and water shortages and inadequate sanitation at makeshift camps in China and need support and protection, a human rights group said Tuesday.

Human Rights Watch said the refugees in Yunnan province are at risk of being returned to a combat zone, and it urged the Chinese government to give them temporary protection and permit the United Nations and humanitarian agencies free access to them.

The Kachin minority in northern Myanmar has been fighting government forces since last June, when the authorities sought to shut down a Kachin militia base near a hydropower dam construction project. The hostilities ended a 17-year cease-fire and displaced about 75,000 people.

"Many Kachin refugees have already endured terrible abuses and war in Burma, only to settle into a life of dire struggle in Yunnan," said Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch, in its report.

"Until it is safe for the Kachin to return home, the Chinese government has a responsibility to ensure their safety and well-being," she said. Burma is Myanmar's former name.

Shortages of food and potable water and inadequate shelter, sanitation and medical care are the main problems, says Human Rights Watch.

"We live in a group, side by side, so sicknesses spread quickly," a Kachin farmer told Human Rights Watch researchers. "If one child gets sick, every child gets sick, and we don't have any medicines. The children have diarrhea and colds constantly."

The report also says most refugee children in Yunnan have no access to schools and the adults, desperate for paying work, are forced to be day laborers and are at risk of exploitatios.

The refugees currently depend on limited support provided by local aid organizations, churches and a few small international organizations in southwestern China, according to Human Rights Watch. All of them are short of funding and resources.

"What we need urgently now are medicines and drinking water," Zhang Shengqi, a Chinese journalist and aid volunteer who blogs about the refugees, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Bangkok.

He said the Chinese government has been reluctant to send aid to the refugees because it didn't want to disturb its friendly relations with Myanmar's military, which still wields much power despite giving way to an elected, nominally civilian government last year.

Human Rights Watch says that while China has generally let Kachin refugees stay, it ordered about 300 people to return to Myanmar.

"The forced returns put the refugees at grave risk and created a pervasive fear of forced return among the Kachin refugees who remain in Yunnan," the group says.

Human Rights Watch says international agreements obligate China not to force back refugees threatened because of their ethnicity, religion or political beliefs, even if China is not a party to those agreements.

When China was accused of closing its border to refugees when fighting began last year, it insisted it had adhered to international standards.

A Kachin health official who crosses the border frequently to provide medical care to refugees said he did not think China had been barring or pushing back refugees recently.

"The Chinese government used to insist on returning our refugees, but recently no such orders are being carried out," Hing Wawm, the deputy chief of Kachin State's Health Department, said by phone. "The soldiers usually tighten border controls when conditions become very unstable."

China's foreign ministry said it was looking into the new report. Government offices in Yunnan province and the city of Ruili, which abuts the Myanmar border, did not respond to telephoned and faxed requests for comment.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Clashes erupt in Kashmir after shrine fire

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A fire destroyed a revered Muslim shrine in Indian-administered Kashmir on Monday, prompting anti-government protests by residents angered over what they said was a slow response by firefighters. At least 30 protesters and 10 policemen were injured in clashes, police said. Shops and businesses remained closed. The cause of the fire at the 200-year-old shrine of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani in the heart of Srinagar city was not immediately known. The blaze started from the roof shortly after morning prayers and quickly engulfed the wooden structure, a police official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Militants kill 13 Pakistan troops, behead 7

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Militants crossed into Pakistan from Afghanistan and killed 13 Pakistani troops, beheading seven of them, the Pakistani military charged Monday. Outraged, Pakistan's new prime minister said he would protest to the Afghan president. The border skirmish is a new sign of tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, two uneasy neighbors. Pakistan has complained that militants use parts of Afghanistan for sanctuary to stage attacks inside Pakistan. That claim helps Islamabad counter frequent U.S. and NATO complaints that militants behind much of the violence in Afghanistan come from Pakistan.

Malaysia court: Give Iranian bomb suspect to Thais

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian court ruled Monday that an Iranian man accused of plotting to attack Israeli targets in Bangkok must be extradited to Thailand. Masoud Sedaghatzadeh said he planned to appeal the decision. He is not expected to be immediately deported. Sedaghatzadeh was arrested at a Malaysian airport soon after an apparently accidental explosion rocked a Bangkok neighborhood Feb. 14.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico laments part of US immigration ruling

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexican government says it's disappointed that the U.S. Supreme Court upheld part of an Arizona law requiring police check the immigration status of anyone they stop. Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretary notes that Monday's ruling set aside as unconstitutional three parts of the controversial law, including the ability to arrest suspected illegal immigrants without warrants. The Mexican government has openly opposed Arizona's immigration law since it was passed in 2010. The statement said enforcing parts of the law that were upheld by the Supreme Court would lead to violations of the civil rights of Mexicans living in or visiting Arizona. It says the law doesn't recognize the many contributions immigrants make to their communities. Mexico filed a "friend of the court" brief challenging the law in the Supreme Court case.

Officials: NE Congo militants kill 10 in attack

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Officials say militants have killed at least 10 people and kidnapped a foreigner in a park in volatile northeastern Congo. Local administrator Faustin Drakana Kananga said Monday that foreign park workers at a reserve in the Epulu area may have been among the 10 victims of the attack by members of a feared militia. Guy Mbayma, executive director of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation, says the attackers also kidnapped two people including an American working for a wildlife group. He did not give the full name of the American hostage. He also says the attackers raped women.

Ecuador studying asylum bid by WikiLeaks founder

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Ecuador's foreign minister says lawyers convened by the government are studying the political and legal implications of granting exile to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Minister Ricardo Patino did not indicate when a decision might come. Ecuador's ambassador to Britain returned to Quito over the weekend and discussed the case Monday with Patino and President Rafael Correa. Assange took refuge in Ecuador's London Embassy last Tuesday in a last-ditch attempt to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning in the alleged sexual assault of two women.

Egyptian president moves into Mubarak's old office

CAIRO (AP)—As Mohammed Morsi moved Monday into the presidential office last occupied by Hosni Mubarak, the contours emerged Monday of a backroom deal that led Egypt's powerful military council to bless the Islamist as the country's first freely elected head of state.

The complex web of issues still to be hammered out range from what to do about the dissolved parliament and the drafting of a new constitution to who will head the Cabinet and hold the key defense and foreign ministries.

Still, the country breathed a sigh of relief that at least the question of who won the presidential runoff had been resolved on Sunday when Egypt's election commission officially recognized the 60-year-old U.S.-trained engineer as the first civilian and the first Islamist to hold the post.

People returned to work a day after a panic sent many home early for fear that violence might erupt when the winner was announced. Traffic was flowing again through Cairo's Tahrir Square, the birthplace of last year's uprising, which had been blocked by Morsi supporters protesting against the military's power grab.

Newspapers were brimming with upbeat headlines, after a week of rumors and scaremongering. "Morsi president on orders from the people: The revolution reaches the presidential palace," said a banner headline in independent daily Al-Shorouk.

Still, Morsi's recognition as president-elect does not resolve the larger standoff between the generals and his Muslim Brotherhood over the institutions of government.

After the generals stripped the presidency of most of its major powers in recent weeks, Morsi takes office without a clear picture of his authorities or what he can do to resolve Egypt's most pressing issues, including restoring stability and security, and improving the struggling economy.

Morsi narrowly defeated Ahmed Shafiq, Mubarak's last prime minister and a former air force general, in a race that deeply polarized the nation and threatened to unleash violent protests. Now he faces a daunting struggle for power with the still-dominant military rulers who took over after Mubarak's ouster in the uprising. State TV showed footage of Morsi meeting Monday with the ruling military council headed by Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, who was Mubarak's defense minister for 20 years. The TV quoted Tantawi as saying the military will "stand by the elected, legitimate president and will cooperate with him for the stability of the country."

Morsi also met with the military-backed Prime Minister Kamal el-Ganzouri, who resigned Monday and was asked to head a caretaker government until Morsi nominates a new one.

President-elect of Egypt

Mohammed Morsi

Early years

Born 1951 in Sharqia, Egypt

Education Bachelor's and masters degrees from Cairo University, doctorate in engineering from University of Southern California

Family Married with five children, two of whom are U.S. citizens, born in California

Academic career

1980-1985 Assistant professor of engineering at California State University, Northridge

1985 Became head of the engineering department, Zagazig University, Egypt

Political career

1977 Joined the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood

2000-2005 Member of parliament as an independent since the Brotherhood was banned from fielding candidates; headed the Brotherhood's unofficial bloc

2011 Becomes chairman of the Brotherhood-linked Freedom and Justice Party

2012 Becomes first civilian, first democratically elected and first Islamist president of Egypt

Source: BBC, New York Times, Miami Herlad. MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2012 MCT

Lawmakers and mediators were tightlipped about the details of the negotiations, although they acknowledged that a few round of talks with the generals took place last week and are ongoing—a sign that much remains undone.

"There is a political settlement initiative that takes everyone's concerns into account," said Muslim Brotherhood member and lawmaker Sobhi Saleh.

But deep mistrust remains. The ruling generals have stacked their side with a maze of legal tools that strengthen their negotiating position, while the Brotherhood must tread softly: The talks can easily blow up into wider social discontent if the Islamist group appears to be looking out only for its own partisan interests and trying to entrench its grip on power.

Emad Abdel-Ghaffour, the head of the ultraconservative Islamist party Al-Nour, said in the week between the June 16-17 presidential runoff and the announcement of the winner on Sunday, many politicians tried to mediate between the Islamists and the generals.

"There was an easing (of tension)" when the elections results came through, he said. But discussions are still under way to clarify the authorities of the president and the military. And one of the immediate sticking points is the dissolution of the Muslim Brotherhood-dominated parliament by a court order, days before the presidential runoff.

As polls closed on June 17, the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces announced constitutional amendments that shocked the Brotherhood and many other political activists who took part in the uprising 16 months ago.

The ruling generals gave themselves sweeping powers that undercut the authority of the president. That followed a government decision that granted military police broad powers to detain civilians. The military council, which promised to transfer power to an elected leader by July 1, said the moves were designed to fill a power vacuum and ensure that the president doesn't monopolize decision-making until a new constitution is drafted.

Two days before the runoff, a court packed with judged appointed by the Mubarak regime also dissolved the country's first freely elected parliament, which was dominated by Islamists. The military council followed by declaring it was now in charge of legislating.

Closed-door meetings between Brotherhood members and the ruling generals as well as mediation from different groups, including pro-reform leader Mohammed ElBaradei, aimed at easing the crisis and defusing a political stalemate.

Syrian soldiers defect as regional tensions soar

BEIRUT (AP)—The regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad suffered an embarrassing string of high-ranking defections, with dozens of soldiers, including senior officers, reported to have fled to neighboring Turkey, officials said Monday.

The crisis also deepened in the region when Turkey's deputy prime minister said Syrian forces opened fire on a second Turkish plane that was searching for the wreckage of a jet shot down last week by Damascus.

Turkey said it would push NATO to consider Syria's downing of the Turkish jet as an attack on the whole military alliance, and NATO's governing body is to meet Tuesday to discuss the incident. It's unlikely, however, that the alliance will take armed action against Syria.

Since the Syrian uprising began last year, thousands of soldiers, most of them low-level conscripts, have deserted and joined the rebels. High-level defections appear to be increasing.

According to a Turkish Foreign Ministry official, a brigadier-general defected to Turkey in recent days. If confirmed, it would be one of the highest-level defections. Gen. Mostafa Ahmad al-Sheik, who fled to Turkey in January, was the highest-ranking officer to bolt at the time.

The Turkish official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government rules.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency also said Monday that 33 soldiers defected overnight, including a general and two colonels.

Although the defections are notable, Assad's regime has remained remarkably airtight, particularly compared with the hemorrhaging of Moammar Gadhafi's inner circle in Libya in 2011.

Within weeks of the Libyan revolt, a number of Libyan ambassadors and other high-ranking officials quit the government, and many joined the opposition leadership. The early defection of huge sections of the army in eastern Libya gave the rebel movement a safe zone where they could freely organize their political and military strategies.

Syria has seen nothing similar, with armed groups fighting under the banner of the Free Syrian Army but lacking much coordination.

As Assad's crackdown on the uprising mutates into a civil war, fears are mounting that the violence could ignite regional unrest. Those fears were borne out Friday when Syrian forces shot a Turkish military plane out of the sky, saying the aircraft violated its airspace.

But Turkey disagrees. According to Turkish officials, the plane had unintentionally strayed into Syrian airspace, but it was inside international airspace when it was brought down. The jet's two missing crew members have not been found.

Ousted leader hopes to regain power in Paraguay

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)—Ousted Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo said Monday that he is aiming to return to power and will rally allies at home and abroad after a landslide congressional vote forced him from office in what he called a break with democracy.

Lugo has symbolically created a parallel Cabinet, attacking the legitimacy of the government that replaced him, and told reporters he will seek to plead his case on the international stage at this week's summit of the Mercosur trade bloc in Mendoza, Argentina. Lugo said he would also challenge the new leaders over Paraguay's role in a broader alliance of South American nations.

He also called on domestic backers, who so far have been relatively quiet, to turn up the pressure.

"I want to resist until we regain power because here there was a parliamentary coup," he said Monday morning after meeting with aides at a left-leaning party's headquarters in the capital. "I call on people from the countryside, the youth and all citizens to resist until we are back in the office we unfairly had to leave."

Meanwhile, aides to former Vice President Federico Franco, who was installed as president on Friday after lawmakers overwhelmingly voted to dismiss Lugo, condemned a Mercosur resolution preventing his new government from attending the summit. Franco's new foreign minister, Jose Felix Fernandez, noted that Paraguay has not been expelled outright from the group that also includes neighboring Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

"We reject Mercosur's decision to suspend us from the right to attend the Mercosur meetings, but I would like to make clear that Paraguay is not out of the bloc," Fernandez said. He said it was a measure "for just one meeting, and Paraguay continues to have the pro-tem presidency of the Union of South American Nations," another regional group, known as Unasur.

But Lugo has said he intends to hand over Unasur's rotating presidency to Peru this week, months before it is scheduled to change hands in November. Ecuador's foreign minister, Ricardo Patino, told reporters in Quito that leaders of Unasur countries may meet this week to take up the issue.

Congress booted Lugo out of office in fast-track proceedings last week triggered by a clash between police and landless protesters in which 17 people died. The Senate found him guilty of poor performance of his duties, citing a clause in the constitution that leaves wide room for congressional interpretation. Franco was tapped to serve out the remainder of Lugo's term, until August 2013.

Focus

Myanmar conflict spurs hatred for Asia's outcasts

AP

A Rohingya Muslim cries during a protest outside the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand Thursday June 21,2012 to call for international intervention to bring an end to the ongoing violence in Rakhine State of Myanmar.

BANGKOK (AP)—They have been called ogres and animals, terrorists and much worse—when their existence is even acknowledged.

Asia's more than 1 million ethnic Rohingya Muslims are considered by rights groups to be among the most persecuted people on Earth. Most live in an anachronistic purgatory without passports, unable to travel freely or call any place home.

In Myanmar, shaken this week by a bloody spasm of violence involving Rohingyas in which dozens of civilians died, they are almost universally despised. The military junta whose half-century of rule ended only last year treated them as foreigners—fueling a profound resentment now reflected in waves of vitriol being posted online.

"People feel it very acceptable to say that 'We will work on wiping out all the Rohingyas,'" said Debbie Stothard, an activist with the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma, referring to hyperbolic Internet comments she called "disturbing."

The Myanmar government regards Rohingyas mostly as illegal migrants from Bangladesh, even though many of their families have lived in Myanmar for generations. Bangladesh rejects them just as stridently.

"This is the tragedy of being stateless," said Chris Lewa, who runs a non-governmental organization called the Arakan Project that advocates for the Rohingya cause worldwide.

"In Burma they're told they're illegals who should go back to Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, they're told they're Burmese who should go back home," Lewa said. "Unfortunately, they're just caught in the middle. They have been persecuted for decades, and it's only getting worse."

That was made painfully clear this week as Bangladeshi coast guard units turned back boatload after boatload of terrified Rohingya refugees trying to escape the violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state. The clashes between Rohingyas and ethnic Rakhine Buddhists have taken a roughly equal toll on both communities, though each blames the other for the violence.

The boats were filled with women and children, and Bangladesh defied international calls to accept them, saying the impoverished country's resources are already too strained.

A few have slipped through, including a month-old baby abandoned Wednesday in a boat after its occupants fled border guards. Three other Rohingyas have been treated for gunshot wounds at a hospital in the Bangladeshi town of Chittagong, including one who died.

The unrest, which has seen more than 2,500 homes charred and 30,000 people displaced internally, erupted after a mob lynched 10 Muslims in apparent retaliation for the rape and murder last month of a 27-year-old Buddhist woman, allegedly by Muslims.

On Thursday, Rakhine state was reportedly calm. But Rohingyas living there "very much feel like they're trapped in a box," said Phil Robertson of Human Rights Watch. "They're surrounded by enemies, and there is an extremely high level of frustration."

The grudges go back far. Bitterness against the Rohingya in Myanmar has roots in a complex web of issues: the fear that Muslims are encroaching illegally on scarce land in a predominantly Buddhist country; the fact that the Rohingya look different than other Burmese; an effort by the former junta to portray them as foreigners.

Across the border in Bangladesh, civilians—not the government—are more tolerant. But even there, Rohingyas are largely unwanted because their presence in the overpopulated country only adds to competition for scarce resources and jobs.

Myanmar's government has the largest Rohingya population in the world: 800,000, according to the United Nations. Another 250,000 are in Bangladesh, and hundreds of thousands more are scattered around the world, primarily the Middle East.

Human Rights Watch and other independent advocacy groups say Rohingyas face discrimination routinely. In Myanmar, they are subjected to forced labor by the army, a humiliation not usually applied to ethnic Rakhine in the same area, Lewa said.

Rohingyas must get government permission to travel outside their own villages and to marry. Apparently concerned about population growth, authorities have barred Rohingyas from having more than two children.

In 1978, Myanmar's army drove more than 200,000 Rohingyas into Bangladesh, according to rights groups and the U.S. Campaign for Burma. Some 10,000 died in squalid conditions, and the rest returned to Myanmar. The campaign was repeated in 1991-1992, and again a majority returned.

In 2009, five boatloads of haggard Rohingya migrants fleeing Myanmar were intercepted by Thai authorities. Rights groups allege they were detained and beaten, then forced back to sea, emaciated and bloodied, in vessels with no engines and little food or water. Hundreds are believed to have drowned.

The same year, Myanmar's consul general in Hong Kong—now a U.N. ambassador—described the Rohingya as "ugly as ogres" in an open letter to diplomats in which he compared their "dark brown" skin to that of the "fair and soft" ethnic Burmese majority.

The latest unrest has focused fresh attention on the Rohingyas' plight, but it has also galvanized a virulent new strain of resentment. Many Burmese have taken to the Internet to denounce the Rohingya as foreign invaders, with some comparing them to al-Qaida and the Taliban.

While vitriol has come from both sides, what makes the latest unrest unique is that virtually "the entire population is openly and completely against" them, said Sai Latt, a writer and Myanmar analyst studying at Canada's Simon Fraser University.

"We have heard of scholars, journalists, writers, celebrities, even the so-called democracy fighters openly making comments against Rohingyas," Sai Latt said.

One Burmese actress posted "I hate them 100%" on her Facebook wall on Monday as the fires burned. By Thursday, her comment had nearly 250 "likes."

Prominent Burmese language journals have reported "only the Rakhine side," Sai Latt said. And many people have lashed out at foreign media, accusing them of getting the story wrong.

Ko Ko Gyi, a prominent former political prisoner released in January, has said Rohingyas should not be mistreated but added they "are not an ethnic group in Myanmar at all." He blamed the recent violence on illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

The longtime leader of Myanmar's democracy movement, Aung San Suu Kyi, has shied away from the blame game, saying the problem should be tackled by fair application of the law.

Speaking in Geneva on a five-nation European tour, she said that "without rule of law, such communal strife will only continue.

"The present situation will need to be handled with delicacy and sensitivity," she told reporters.

The tide of nationalistic sentiment against the Rohingya puts Suu Kyi in a difficult position. Her conciliatory message risks alienating large blocs of supporters at a time when she and her National League for Democracy are trying to consolidate political gains attained after they entered Parliament for the first time in April.

The Rohingya speak a Bengali dialect similar to one spoken by residents of southern Bangladesh. And physically, they are almost indistinguishable from their Bangladeshi counterparts, said Lewa, of the Arakan Project.

But their history—specifically the amount of time they've lived in Myanmar, and who among them qualifies as a legitimate resident—is bitterly disputed.

Some say the Rohingya are descended from Arab settlers in the 7th century, and that their state was conquered by the Burmese in 1784. Later waves arrived from British-run colonial India in the 1800s, but like the colonists themselves, they were regarded as foreigners.

That view persisted through half a century of military rule. Myanmar's post-junta government does not recognize them as one of the country's 135 indigenous ethnic groups. And many people stridently believe they are not even a real ethnic group—rather, they are only illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

President Thein Sein has warned that any escalation could jeopardize the nation's fragile democratic reforms.

The International Crisis Group said that ironically, the nation's newfound freedoms may have helped contribute to the unrest.

"The loosening of authoritarian constraints may well have enabled this current crisis to take on a virulent intensity," the group said. "It is not uncommon that when an authoritarian state loosens its grip, old angers flare up and spread fast."

Rohingya Muslims are considered to be among the most persecuted people on Earth. Most live in an anachronistic purgatory without passports, unable to travel freely or call any place home.

Campus Life

Title IX makes sports a part of life for women

By MICHAEL VITEZ
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Facts speak for themselves.

In 1972, fewer than 300,000 girls in America played high school sports. Now, three million do.

Saturday was the 40th anniversary of the passage of Title IX, the federal law that said no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation or denied the benefits of any education program or activity receiving federal funds.

And the world changed.

"It's one of the most popular and successful civil rights laws the country's ever had," said Lisa Maatz, top policy adviser with the American Association of University Women and chair of the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE).

Even though the word "athletics" is never mentioned in Title IX, the law had its biggest impact in sports.

In 1972, only 2 percent of school athletic budgets were devoted to women, and athletic scholarships for women were almost nonexistent. In 2009 — 2010, women received 48 percent of the athletic scholarship dollars at Division I schools, according to a report by the NCWGE.

The number of women participating in college sports has soared in 40 years, from 29,977 to 193,232. They now receive 40 percent of total money spent on athletics, but they account for 53 percent of today's college enrollment, the report says.

Women today grow up thinking that playing sports is as normal as breathing. The most dramatic impact of Title XI, many women say, is on how young women see themselves, accept their body types, and develop confidence that extends beyond athletics.

Consider Dawn Staley, 42, who grew up with Title IX. She went from being a playground star with the boys at the Raymond Rosen housing project in North Philadelphia to being a scholarship athlete at the University of Virginia, where she became women's basketball player of the year. She went on to the Olympics, won gold, and carried the American flag at the opening ceremony in Athens.

And after playing professionally, she went on to coach at Temple and now South Carolina.

"Title IX made that possible," said Maatz, "but I guarantee you she's not making as much as the men's coach. And I guarantee you there are more men coaching in women's sports than women coaching in men's.

"Title IX has opened doors, changed the face of women's opportunity," she added, "but it hasn't changed the gender stereotype as much as we'd like it to."

Betsy Lucas, 54, of Narberth, Pa., went to a big public high school in Baltimore filled with terrific women athletes, and not one got an athletic scholarship. She notes that her daughter, Maggie, a star scholarship basketball player and rising junior at Penn State, had women athletic role models since she could tie her shoes.

That alone was enormously empowering and encouraging, Betsy Lucas said.

Title IX, however, is still controversial.

More than 300 men's varsity programs at Division I colleges have been canceled in the last decade, and compliance with Title IX is often given as the reason.

That men's sports are a casualty of Title IX is a common perception.

Susan Francia, 29, a 2008 Olympic gold-medal rower from Abington and Penn who will be returning to the Olympics this summer, said this of Title IX:

"It's given girls a great opportunity to be part of a sport that otherwise might be brushed aside or not get the funding that bigger sports do. In that respect I think it's fantastic. On the other hand, I know at the cost of Title IX a lot of men's rowing programs have been shut down. That's the other side of it."

When Delaware canceled men's track and cross country last year, it said Title IX was responsible. University officials said that in order to continue gender equity, they needed either to expand women's programs or cut men's programs, and the former just wasn't financially feasible.

But Maatz calls this a "big myth."

"Schools like to use Title IX as a scapegoat when they don't want to tell students that they're cutting," she said.

One measurement of compliance to Title IX is proportionality. The percentage of women in sports at a given school should approximate the percentage of women in the student body. Delaware's student body is 58 percent female, yet more men were involved in sports.

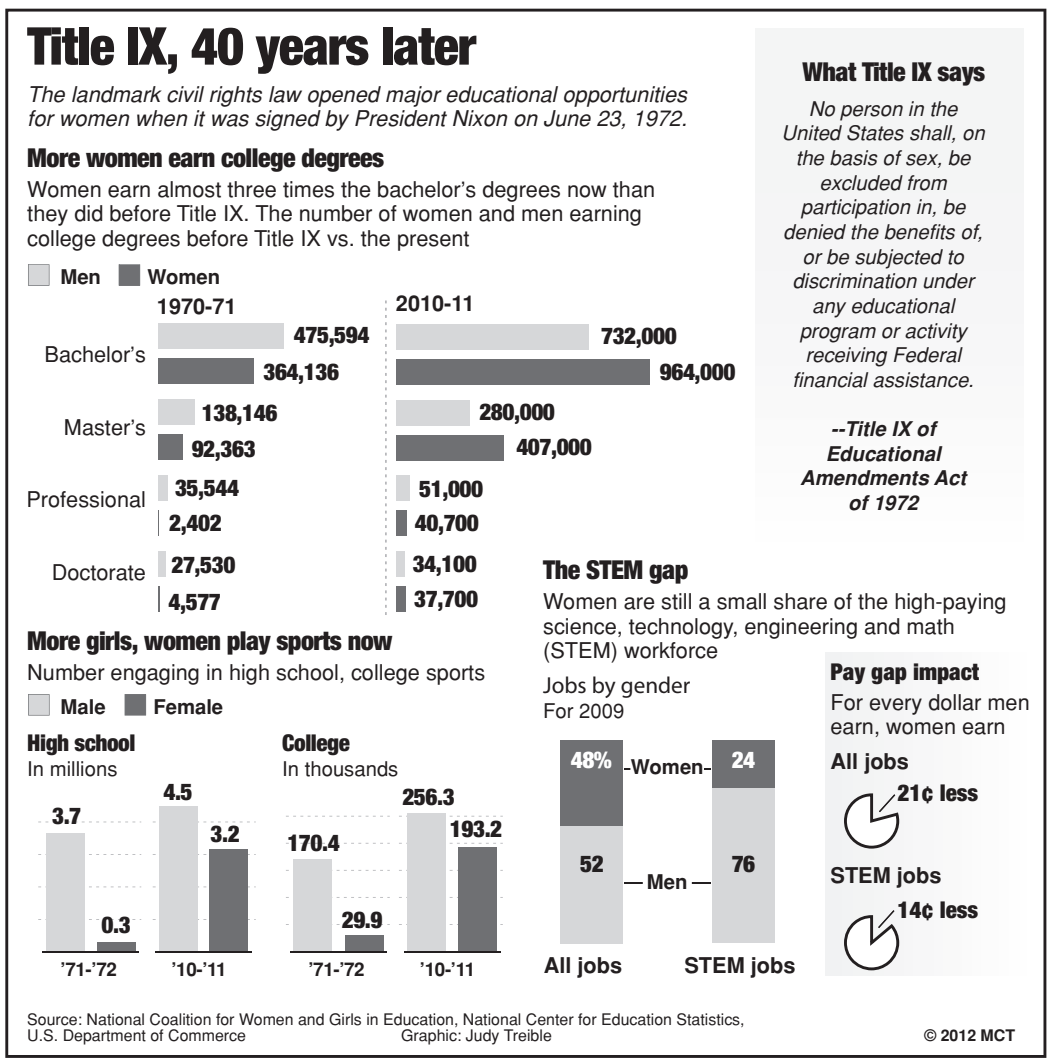
But proportionality is only one of the criteria for compliance, Maatz said. There are two others, and a university need meet only one of the three. Another, she said, states only that the institution's existing programs fully and effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex.

"If universities are having an arms race to have the nicest stadium or biggest loge boxes for basketball and football, and they decide to put their money there instead of into these smaller sports, that's not a Title IX issue," Maatz said. "Administrators don't want to take the heat from their student body, so they say it's just Title IX.

"Nothing in Title IX requires the cutting of sports to come into compliance."

AP

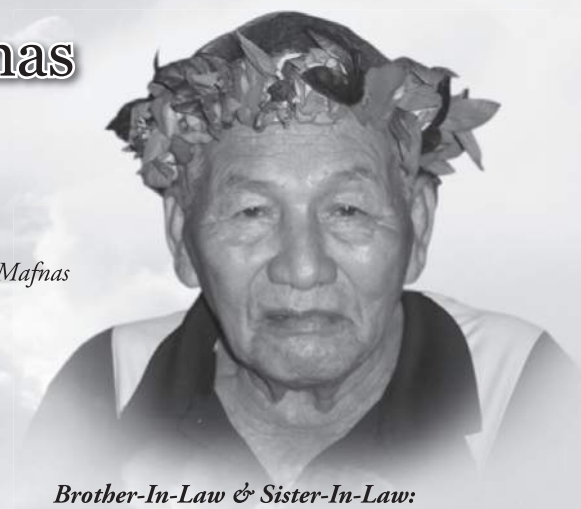
Title IX was signed into law 40 years ago and changed the game for female athletes.



DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Leocardio Camacho Mafnas

Better known as "Tun Kadu".
Born to Life on December 09, 1928
Was called to eternal life on June 24, 2012



In His New Life He Now Joins His:

WIFE: †Sabina Ngisilong Maidesil Castro Mafnas
SON: †Calistro Castro Mafnas
†Bruce Magofna
MOTHER: †Remedio Celis Camacho
FATHER: †Joaquin Cruz Mafnas
BROTHER: †Jose Camacho Mafnas
†Rafael Camacho Mafnas
SISTERS: †Isidora Mafnas Salas
†Rosalia Mafnas Borja
†Isabel Mafnas Santos
BROTHERS-IN-LAW: †David Castro
†Romeo Salas
†Francisco Borja
†Baldabino Castro
†James Belyeu
SISTERS-IN-LAW: †Fermina Castro Belyeu
†Fidelia Castro Sister Frances Mary
GRAND-DAUGHTER IN-LAW: †Rosalyn Alepuyo Sanchez-Mafnas

In His Memories Will Forever live in the Hearts of His Children/Spouse:
Carmen C. Mafnas / Joaquin Reyes Dela Cruz & children (Texas)
Lourdes C. Mafnas / Felix Torres & children
Frances C. Mafnas / George B. Pangelinan & children
Remy C. Mafnas / Butch Wolf & children
Jose C. Mafnas / Pat & children
Rosa M. / Joseph M. Sablan & children
Bino Mafnas / Denita Muna & children
Rick C. Mafnas / Akiko Mafnas & children
Florence / George M. Fleming & children
Antonio / Isabella Reyes & children
Dianna / Joseph Sasamoto & children (California)

Brother-In-Law & Sister-In-Law:
Tomasa Cing Mafnas
Jesus Aguon Santos
Torquato / Anna C. Castro

Caregiver: Emi Blanco

He is Additionally Survived by Numerous Grand & Great Grand Children, Nieces, Nephews, God-Children & Friends.

Nightly Mass is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Roque Church until July 01, 2012.

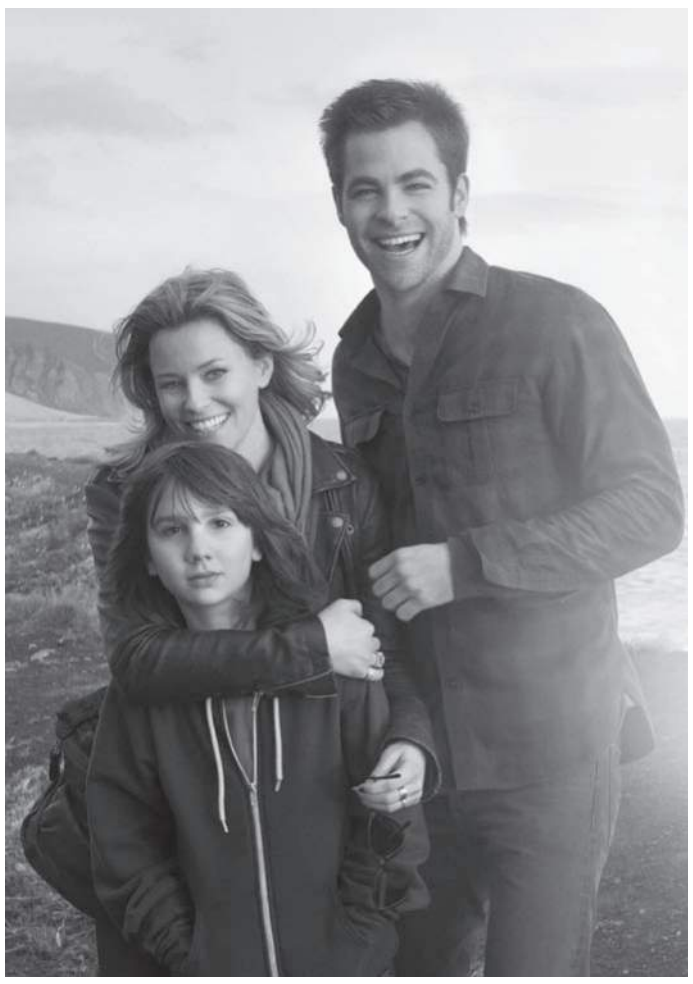
His Remains will leave at 7:30 a.m. from CHC to San Roque Church on July 02, 2012, followed by the Responso and Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be at San Roque Cemetery.

Your thoughts, Prayers & Support Are Greatly Appreciated.

Un Dankulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase Giñen I Famaguon Yan Todos I Familia

Life & Style

Q&A with 'People Like Us' star Chris Pine



DREAMWORKS/MCT

Sam (Chris Pine) gets to know Frankie (Elizabeth Banks) the sister he has just discovered and her son Josh (Michael D'Addario), while trying to figure out how to tell her they are siblings in the DreamWorks drama-comedy, "People Like Us."

By LEWIS BEALE
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK—Chris Pine wasn't afraid to accept one of the most challenging jobs in film history: portraying a young James T. Kirk in the 2009 "Star Trek" reboot. Yet despite visions of William Shatner and the qualms of some Trekkies, the Los Angeles native managed to put his stamp on the role, and a star was born.

Since then, the graduate of UC Berkeley has shown his chops in a wide variety of parts, from the action film "Unstoppable" to the romantic comedy "This Means War." In "People Like Us," opening Friday, he plays the bitter son of a legendary music producer, who discovers that his father has a love child (Elizabeth Banks) from a previous relationship. Lewis Beale talked with Pine by phone from Los Angeles.

Q. You come from a tight-knit family—actor father Robert, psychotherapist mom Anne—the total opposite of the fractured group in "People Like Us." How do you as an actor manage to relate to such a situation?

A. There's a fair bit of imagination involved. Even if you don't relate specifically to this story, to that unique experience, what you do share is the source of where you come from, a family. And even if they're around or not, everyone has a certain drama in their family, there are secrets in their family, and one of those is when you view your parents as human beings, rather than super people. That's the resonance there.

Q. One of the nice things about the film is that it's not about superheroes and isn't filled with special effects, which seems all too common these days. Do you think reality-based stories are making a comeback?

A. I think it's a good sign that people like good stories, and it doesn't matter if they have explosions or not. There's an appetite for something different than the usual fare, and it's unfortunate the film companies don't make pictures like that any anymore.

Q. Your dad was one of the stars of the old TV series "CHiPs," and has been a working character actor for decades. What kind of advice did he give you when you decided to pursue an acting career?

A. My father leads by example; I'm the son of a working actor, a blue-collar actor. There are good years and bad years, the business is a fickle one. He stuck with it through thick and thin; I've seen every good and bad thing the industry has to offer. my parents were blue-collar actors (Pine's mother acted at one point). Some years we had good money, some years bad money. I had no rose-colored glasses regarding the business I was getting into.

Q. You have an English degree from UC Berkeley and also studied the subject at the University of Leeds in England. What is it about the subject you like so much?

A. I love the act of reading, not writing papers about reading. I did not find pleasure in dissecting things and killing all the joy in them, like we did at Berkeley. I did enjoy the English program at Leeds, it was more creative and open-ended; I really enjoyed that.

Q. What's it like being part of the "Star Trek" universe? And did you really understand what you were getting into when you accepted the role of Kirk?

A. I don't know if I had any sense of what I was stepping into, not being a fan when I got into the process. I watched that documentary "Trekkies" and thought, "Wow, I had no idea how the fans were so loyal and related to the world." Because the fans loved the original actors so much, we were afraid we would not live up to their expectations. We all wanted to do well by it. But after it came out, people seemed to be pretty receptive to it. Although some people had a problem with my version of Kirk that was more rebellious than Shatner's Kirk.

Q. You're signed to do the next Jack Ryan movie, following in the footsteps of Harrison Ford, Ben Affleck and Alec Baldwin. In fact, Us Weekly once referred to you as "the new Harrison Ford." What does that mean to you?

A. I was watching Ford in "Clear and Present Danger" the other night. I think what he does so well is he's the perfect embodiment of the reluctant hero, and he does that well in the Jack Ryan series. There's a part of him that doesn't want to be in the limelight, but he's got to be. There's a gruff, real-man quality to him that's very appealing.

Q. About those striking blue eyes. You get a lot of comments about them.

A. It's definitely flattering. I have to thank my father, I guess. I had no control over that one. I have heard it before. It's always a nice thing to hear.

In Celebration Of His New Life

VICENTE VILLAGOMEZ TORRES

He was born to his Pilgrim Life on September 17, 1941 and
was called by his Creator to his Eternal Life on June 13, 2012 in Boise, Idaho.

His Peaceful Spirit and Memories will continue to live in the Hearts of his:

WIFE: **PRIMITIVA DELEON GUERRERO TORRES**

CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN:

VINCENT DELEON GUERRERO TORRES JR. & ROWINA
(Jesseleo, Ali, Tivana Judy, Vincent III, Jupri & Hunter)
TROY DELEON GUERRERO TORRES
(Colleen Joyce)
JOAQUIN DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & IRENE
(Steven, Tiana, Jacqlene & Joaquin, Jr.)
VICTORINO DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & BRENDA
(Victoria, Maxine, Venetian & Victorino, Jr.)
RALPH DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & DIANN
(Ralph, Jr., Vaniqa Marie, Deon Titus & Tristan Dane)
JUDY MARIE DELEON GUERRERO TORRES & LUCIO
(Lucio)

BROTHER: Ralph Villagomez Torres

He is additionally survived by numerous Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and GodChildren

In his New Life, he now joins his Creator and all the Angels and Saints together with his:

Parents: †Joaquin Torres and Juana Villagomez Torres
Parents In Law: †Victorino Deleon Guerrero and Maria C. Deleon Guerrero
Brother: †Jose Villagomez Torres
Daughter: †Juanet Deleon Guerrero Torres
Sister In Law: †Carmen M. Torres

Daily Mass is offered at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Jude Church followed immediately by the Holy Rosary.

On Friday, June 29, 2012, our Beloved Father's remains will be escorted from the Borja's Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church at 7:30 a.m. followed by responso, rosary and public viewing. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by the interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery. Appreciation lunch will be served after the interment services.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase', Olomwaay and Salamat Po for
your Prayers, Thoughts and Support during our time of Bereavement.
May God Bless us all.

Primitiva Deleon Guerrero Torres & Family

Conn. cops: Dylan McDermott's mom murdered in '67

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP)—A reopened police investigation has concluded that actor Dylan McDermott's mother was killed in 1967 by her now-dead gangster boyfriend.

Waterbury police reopened the investigation last year into Diane McDermott's death after Dylan McDermott contacted them with questions, the Republican-American newspaper reported Sunday and Monday as part of a two-part series.

He was 5 years old when his mother was shot in February 1967. Her death was originally ruled an accident.

Police told the newspaper that the evidence they found would be enough to file murder charges against John Sponza, who lived with McDermott at the time. He had told authorities that McDermott accidentally shot herself after picking up a gun he had been cleaning.

Sponza, who police say had ties to organized crime, was shot to death in 1972, his body found in the trunk of a car in a Waltham, Mass., grocery store parking lot.

The state's medical examiner, H. Wayne Carver, reviewed McDermott's autopsy and determined that the gun found near the body was too small a caliber to have been the weapon used to kill her. The wound also showed that the murder weapon had been pressed to the back of her head, according to his report.

Police Superintendent Michael Gugliotti also stumbled over some of the initial findings.

"What troubled me was that there was very little follow up other than the statement Sponza had given to police," Gugliotti said.

"Sponza is telling the police that night that he very rarely, if ever, had arguments, yet everyone we spoke to, including Dylan, who was only 5 at the time, remembered very violent, vicious arguments," he added. "Dylan vividly recalls the amount of times, not only flashing the gun, but pointing it at the kid, saying, `Shut up and get out of here.' He's still probably traumatized by that."

Dylan McDermott, who won a Golden Globe in 1999 for his role on the TV drama "The Practice," declined to comment to the newspaper about the investigation. His sister, Robin Herrera, said she is relieved that the truth has been discovered.

AP

In this Aug. 11, 2009 file photo, actor Dylan McDermott arrives at the Hollywood Foreign Press Annual Installation luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif.

"I'm happy to know my mother wasn't mentally ill or depressed," she said. "Somebody took her from us; she didn't leave us."

Dylan McDermott met with Gugliotti and Mayor Neil M. O'Leary last year while in town for a fundraiser.

"He said in order for me to survive and to get where I am today, I needed to bury that moment in my life deep within myself," Gugliotti said. "He said it wasn't until recently that I've come to the point in my life where I'm able to begin to process all of this and make it part of his life."

Police said the McDermott investigation has led to evidence that also implicates Sponza in at least two other unsolved homicides.

P-word? OK. The V-word? That's trickier

NEW YORK (AP)—Kayt Sukel, an author who writes about neuroscience and sexuality, has given lectures around the country on the issue. And there's one word, she finds, that never fails to make some in her audience squeamish.

"There's just something about the word 'vagina' that startles people—I don't know what it is," says Sukel. "People sit back a little bit. Sometimes they start giggling. I end up using euphemisms just to make them more comfortable, and more receptive to what I am saying. And we don't seem to have the same problems with the word 'penis.'"

In a much different setting, Judy Gold has similar experiences. The popular standup comic and actress, who last year starred in her own successful off-Broadway show, focuses her routines on being gay, Jewish, a New Yorker and a mother. Her audiences presumably know what they're getting into. Yet she, too, hears gasps in the audience when she says the V-word.

And so neither woman was extremely surprised when they heard about the recent incident in Michigan, where a lawmaker was temporarily barred from speaking in the state legislature after using the word "vagina" during a debate.

It all began when Lisa Brown, a Democrat, was speaking against a bill requiring doctors to ensure that abortion-seekers haven't been coerced into ending their pregnancies. "I'm flattered you're all concerned about my vagina," Brown said. "But no means no." Brown believes she was censured because of the word "vagina," though her Republican opponents later said it was the "no means no" part, which they claimed likened the law to rape. The lawmaker denies she was doing anything of the kind.

But politics aside, many are baffled that even in 2012, the V-word retains shock value—much more than its male counterpart—even though it is finally beginning to surface regularly in mainstream entertainment, popping up in network TV shows as well as in newly bold references in advertising.

"I mean, you can say `penis,'" says Gold. "You can say `erection,' `erectile dysfunction,' even `vaginal probe.' But `vagina'? Suddenly it's a dirty word. And it's the correct anatomical term!"

Can an anatomical term really be a bad word? Even the Parents Television Council, a watchdog group that tracks what it sees as objectionable content on TV, acknowledges that difficulty.

AP

This June 18, 2012 file photo shows, from left, Rep. Barb Byrum, D-Onondaga, Rep. Lisa Brown, D-West Bloomfield, playwright Eve Ensler and Sen. Rebecca Warren, D-Ann Arbor, posing for a group picture during an event including a performance of "The Vagina Monologues" by Brown and 10 other lawmakers on the Michigan Statehouse steps, in Lansing, Mich.

"I've got a toddler, and when you read potty-training books, they discourage the use of euphemisms for body parts," says Melissa Henson, the group's director of communications. But what troubles the PTC, she says, is "the use of this language in the context of cheap sex jokes. It's dumbed-down humor that's in no way respectful of the audience."

The PTC studied the appearance of "penis" and "vagina" in scripted shows on five networks, comparing the 2010-2011 season to 2001-2002. Not surprisingly, it found a large increase, largely in the last year or two.

The word "vagina" was used 35 times in shows on NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox and CW in the 2010-2011 season, and only four times a decade earlier. In addition, the PTC found, it was used 12 times in the first two months of the 2011-2012 season on just one show, "2 Broke Girls" on CBS, which follows a couple of 20-something waitresses in Brooklyn.

As for the word "penis"? The term was used much more than its female counterpart, 30 times a decade ago, and 116 times in 2010-2011. (But that's hardly a shock: it was way back in 1982 that the young boy in "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial," one of the most beloved family films of all time, called his brother "penis breath"—and only got an order to "Sit down!" from his Mom.)

In advertising, there's been a huge shift as well the last few years, with one of the bolder examples being the "Hail to the V" ad campaign for the Summer's Eve line of feminine cleansing products. But Fleet Laboratories, which makes Summer's Eve, has had some problems determining what's fun and edgy and what goes too far. A year ago it had to withdraw one set of TV ads that showed female hands of different races forming talking vaginas—the characterizations were seen as racially insensitive.

The recent emergence of the V-word in pop culture has not gone unnoticed—the New York Times even called the current TV season "the season of the vagina." Whitney Cummings, one of the co-creators of "2 Broke Girls," quipped to the paper: "Vagina jokes paid for my house."

And yet the networks hardly seem eager to discuss the word. One executive at a major network who declined to speak for this article indicated it just wasn't worth the trouble of attracting negative attention.

Where does the squeamishness come from? Author Sutel feels sex education in schools is lacking. She says there aren't enough teachers like the one she had in 8th grade who "went around the room and made us say 'penis, vagina,' just to get used to the words."

Comedian Gold sees a darker reason—misogyny, and the over-sexualization of women by men. "The woman has become so sexualized, and saying `vagina' takes the sex out of it," Gold says. "Men prefer other words for that body part."

Mia Blitstein, a 34-year-old Philadelphia mother, thinks the issue may stem from our parents, whose own attitudes about sex we absorb at an early age.

"The attitudes that our parents model for us, and the words they use, are very important," says Blitstein, who says she tries to impress upon her own son that names of body parts are not dirty.

Calif., Fla. teens win high school theater awards

NEW YORK (AP)—A teenager from California with a flair for singing funny songs and another from Florida who emerged triumphant after tackling two tough operatic tunes won top honors Monday at the National High School Musical Theater Awards.

Elizabeth Romero, 18, from Fullerton, Calif., was named best actress and Joshua Grosso, 18, from Tampa, Fla., got the best actor crown at the fourth annual competition, nicknamed the Jimmy Awards after theater owner James Nederlander.

Both also received $10,000 scholarship awards, capping a months-long winnowing process that began with 50,000 students from 1,000 schools. Sixty finalists were invited to New York to compete for the title and make their Broadway debuts on the Minskoff Theatre stage.

"I am at a loss for words. I can barely breathe," said Romero. "This is unbelievable: To perform on a Broadway stage in the heart of New York City. That's unheard of for a lot of kids our age."

A seven-judge panel that included Tony Award nominee Montego Glover chose the winners after watching them perform solos and medleys over Sunday and Monday. The night's hosts were Constantine Maroulis and Deborah Cox, stars of the upcoming revival of "Jekyll & Hyde."

During a whirlwind visit, the 60 teens who made it to New York—30 girls and 30 boys—got six days of coaching by New York University faculty and Broadway stars like Telly Leung from "Godspell." They also took in a showing of "Nice Work If You Can Get It."

Grosso thanked his parents, siblings and teachers, but saved his most impassioned thanks for the 59 other competitors backstage. "We cried, we laughed," he said as they cheered him. "This is truly a blessing."

On Monday night, all 60 performed snippets of the songs that they had sung at regional competitions in six large medleys and then six—three men and three women—were plucked to sing solos.

Romero sang "A Little Brains, a Little Talent" from "Damn Yankees" and then "Disneyland" from the Marvin Hamlisch musical "Smile" for her solo. Grosso sang "All I Ask of You" from "The Phantom of the Opera" and then "Il Mondo Era Vuoto" from "The Light in the Piazza" as his solo.

The level of talent was high, with the students singing tunes in costume that ranged from "Aida" to "Bye Bye Birdie" to "Legally Blonde" to "Anything Goes." One even sang "Sal Tlay Ka Siti" from "The Book of Mormon" and a Sweeney Todd carried a mock straight razor.

There was also a fair amount of overlapping, with two Phantoms of the Opera, a duo of Bakers from "Into the Woods" and two Hortons from "Seussical." On the female side, there were two Aidas, three Belles from "Beauty and the Beast" and three Millies from "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

"OK, I played Aida on Broadway and I'm glad those two weren't at the audition," said Cox, watching the pair portraying the Nubian heroine exit the stage. At another point, Maroulis joked: "Some of the boys sing lower than me, which is weird."

The four runners-up, who each receive $2,500, were: Evan Greenberg from Atlanta; Drew Shafranek from Irving, Texas; Nicolette Burton from San Diego, Calif.; and Erica Durham from Pittsburgh.

Uggie leaves paw prints at famed Grauman's theater

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Every dog has its day—and Monday belonged to Uggie.

The canine star of the Oscar-winning film "The Artist" became the first dog to put its paw prints in cement outside the famous Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

The rambunctious Jack Russell terrier was celebrated at a treat-laden ceremony outside the landmark as Councilman Tom LaBonge declared it "Uggie Day" in Los Angeles.

"The main message that Uggie would like to send to everybody out there is to please adopt," Uggie's trainer, Omar Van Muller, told the crowd. "He's adopted. He made it. If you guys can adopt a dog, even if they don't make it on the big screen, they'll be big stars at your house."

The event also marked Uggie's retirement from show business. Van Muller said Uggie, whose other film credits include "Mr. Fix It" and "Water for Elephants," would no longer star in films but would appear at charity events and other functions.

Uggie, who arrived at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in a fire truck, was bestowed with a golden bow-tie collar and given a cake in the shape of a fire hydrant after performing tricks for photographers and tourists lining a red carpet.

Canine star Uggie attends the pawprint ceremony for Uggie the dog at Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Monday June 25, 2012 in Los Angeles.

AP

He was later joined by pooch pals Lassie and Rin Tin Tin and "Artist" actor Ken Davitian.

Uggie's "Artist" stand-ins—his brother Dash and another Jack Russell named Dude—were noticeable absent at Monday's festivities.

The duo wore makeup to look like Uggie in "The Artist," where the dogs played the canine companion to Jean Dujardin's fading silent film star. The movie won five trophies at the Academy Awards earlier this year, including the best picture prize.

Uggie was nearly upstaged at his own event when pop star Katy Perry unexpectedly appeared across the street, attracting a crowd of police and barking fans. Perry was scheduled to appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live," which is filmed at the nearby El Capitan Theatre.

After cementing his paws, Uggie dipped them in ink and "autographed" DVD and Blu-ray copies of "The Artist." The pooch was visibly shaken during much of the event, probably due to a combination of the large crowd and the oppressive summer heat. Following the nearly hour-long event, Uggie and company retreated inside the theater.

Uggie joins a long list of celebrities who have left handprints and footprints in the courtyard of the tourist spot. Among them were Johnny Depp, John Wayne, Marilyn Monroe, Fred Astaire and Kim Novak.

While Uggie is the first canine to be showcased at Grauman's courtyard, three dogs—Lassie, Rin Tin Tin and Strongheart—have stars on the nearby Hollywood Walk of Fame along with fictional critters like Godzilla, Kermit the Frog, Big Bird and The Muppets.

1st-ever Andrew Carnegie medal winners announced

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Anne Enright's novel "The Forgotten Waltz" and Robert Massie's biography "Catherine the Great" have won the first-ever Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in literature.

The American Library Association announced the awards Monday at its annual conference in Anaheim, Calif. The Carnegie awards for fiction and nonfiction are the first adult prizes ever sponsored by the association, which also manages the top honors for children's literature, the John Newbery and Randolph Caldecott medals.

Enright and Massie each will receive $5,000. In its announcement, the library association praised Enright's "supple prose" and Massie's "compulsively readable" style. The Carnegie selection committee was chaired by Nancy Pearl, a popular Seattle-based librarian and NPR commentator.

Brinkley settles latest skirmish with ex-husband

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. (AP)—Supermodel and actress Christie Brinkley and her ex-husband Peter Cook have resolved their latest New York legal skirmish.

The New York Post reports Brinkley and Cook had been fighting over nasty email correspondence and expenses related to the care of their two children. They were due for a court fight on Long Island on Tuesday.

Brinkley posted a statement on her Facebook page on Monday confirming a deal had been reached. Cook tells the Post he feels great about the settlement.

The Hamptons couple divorced after a sensational high-profile trial in 2008 after he was caught having an affair with a teenager who worked at his architecture firm.

The terms of the settlement include a provision that a parental coordinator be appointed to help mediate issues regarding the care of their children.

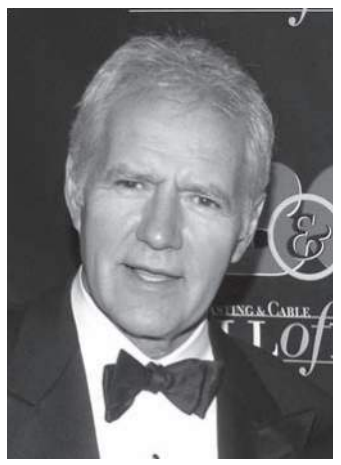
'Jeopardy!' host 'up and about' after heart attack

NEW YORK (AP)—A spokeswoman says "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek is "up and about" in a Los Angeles hospital as he recovers from a mild heart attack.

Sony Pictures Television spokeswoman Paula Askanas said Monday that Trebek is "in good spirits" while doctors complete their tests. She says he has been moved to a regular room.

The 71-year-old Trebek was admitted to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Saturday. He's expected to fully recover and be back at work when "Jeopardy!" resumes production for a new season in July.

Trebek was hospitalized for a heart attack in 2007. He has been hosting the popular quiz show for 28 years.



This Oct. 22, 2007 file photo shows game show host Alex Trebek at the 17th annual Broacasting and Cable Hall of Fame awards dinner in New York.

AP

Billy Ray Cyrus makes his way to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus is making his Broadway debut in "Chicago."

The singer of "Achy Breaky Heart" and father of Miley Cyrus is detouring from his Nashville roots in taking on the role of criminal lawyer Billy Flynn for a seven-week engagement beginning Nov. 5.

Cyrus starred with his daughter in the hit TV series "Hannah Montana," and has acted in TV movies on Lifetime and the Hallmark Channel. Cyrus has also hosted country music's "Nashville Star" and was a competitor on "Dancing With The Stars."

Other celebrities to join the "Chicago" cast have included Sofia Vergara, Melanie Griffith, Brooke Shields, Ashlee Simpson, Usher, Huey Lewis, Michael C. Hall and Jerry Springer.

This Dec. 13, 2011 file photo shows singer Billy Ray Cyrus attending a special screening of "Albert Nobbs" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Cyrus is making his Broadway debut in "Chicago."

AP

Pot-smoking husband lives in haze of youthful memories

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband, who is 53, talks often about his college days when he smoked marijuana. I tried it once and didn't like it. Over the past several years he has started smoking it again.

I have told him I don't approve, but he says he does it only occasionally "to take the edge off." Many times he has smoked when we're out on bike rides, on road trips or a Sunday drive. It makes me feel like he needs to be high in order to have a good time with me.

I tried compromising by asking him not to do it when we are together. He agreed, but he doesn't keep his word. He does it thinking I don't know what he's up to.

I have noticed that he is becoming forgetful and is sometimes unable to understand information. Is this a midlife crisis he's going through? How do I get him to stop?

MRS. POTHEAD IN WINONA, MINN.

DEAR MRS. POTHEAD: It's not a midlife crisis. I'm told that the grass that's available today is far stronger than when your hubby smoked it in college.

Your husband may be becoming forgetful and unable to process information because he's smoking pot A LOT, or because of a neurological problem. Because marijuana slows reaction time, he should not be driving while under the influence, and you shouldn't be riding with him.

Since you can't convince him to stop, you could benefit from visiting a support group for families and friends of individuals who are addicted to drugs, because marijuana is one, and it appears your husband has become addicted.

P.S. Of course, marijuana is also illegal.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Jerry," my husband, has been sending pictures of himself to online dating sites, advertising for a personal relationship with the so-called "right woman."

I feel this is a betrayal of our marriage vows and that it's cheating. He claims he's "just looking" at what's out there.

My concern is, why is he looking in the first place? All I get from him is "I love you" and "I want to be with you." I have seen these dating sites, and I feel hurt and betrayed. Am I wrong to feel this way, or should I believe what he says about harmless fun?

BROKEN-HEARTED LIBRA, LOUISVILLE, KY.

DEAR LIBRA: Your instincts are right on the money. You have every right to feel betrayed, hurt and cheated on because your husband's words don't match his actions. What he's doing is not "harmless fun"; it is a danger to your marriage. Do not tolerate it. Run, don't walk, to a marriage counselor. If your husband won't go with you, go alone because your marriage could depend upon it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was divorced 20 years ago and have two children from my marriage. My ex-husband was black and I am Caucasian. Over the years, when I've discussed my children or showed photos of them, people have asked me if they are "mixed," if they have the same father and if I was married to their father. I presume that some folks assume interracial marriage indicates a lack of good judgment, giving rise to further inappropriate questions.

I would love a good, snappy comeback to those questions without stooping to their level of rudeness. I have tried, "Why would you ask me that?" and got even more questions. Any advice or help you could give would be great.

TAKEN ABACK IN INDIANA

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: Rather than a snappy comeback, why not simply answer "yes" to all three of those questions and end the conversation?

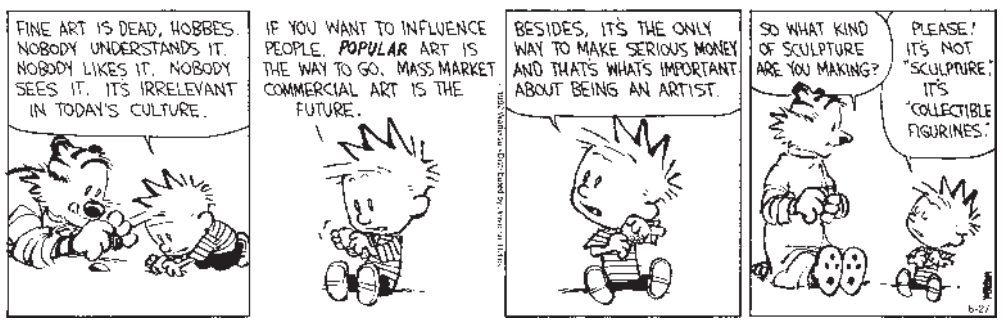
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

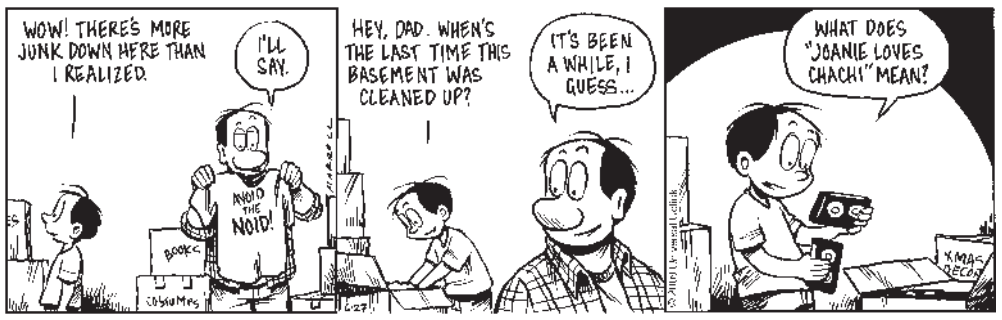

FINE ART IS DEAD, HOBBES. NOBODY UNDERSTANDS IT. NOBODY LIKES IT. NOBODY SEES IT. IT'S IRRELEVANT IN TODAY'S CULTURE.
IF YOU WANT TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE, POPULAR ART IS THE WAY TO GO. MASS MARKET COMMERCIAL ART IS THE FUTURE.
BESIDES, IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SERIOUS MONEY AND THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT ABOUT BEING AN ARTIST.
SO WHAT KIND OF SCULPTURE ARE YOU MAKING?
PLEASE! IT'S NOT "SCULPTURE," IT'S "COLLECTIBLE FIGURINES."

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

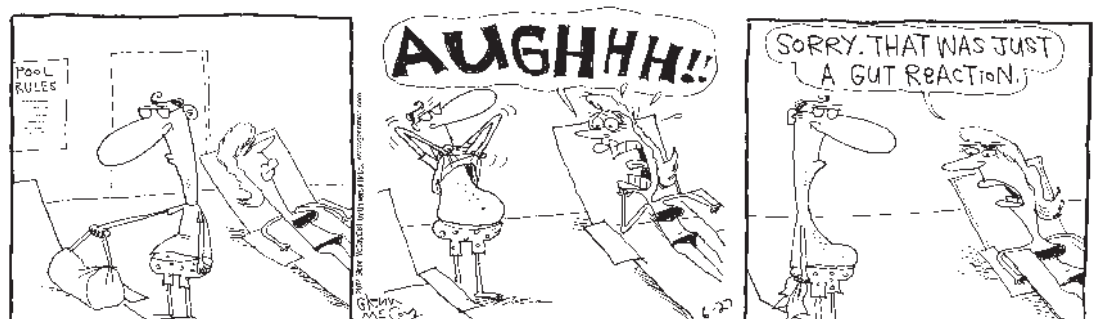
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOW! THERE'S MORE JUNK DOWN HERE THAN I REALIZED.
I'LL SAY.
HEY, DAD. WHEN'S THE LAST TIME THIS BASEMENT WAS CLEANED UP?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, I GUESS...
WHAT DOES "JOANIE LOVES CHACHI" MEAN?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — de deux
4 Rotating part
7 St. Louis landmark
8 Sorcerer
10 Durable wood
11 Obliterated
13 Jake and Elwood
16 Foundation
17 Kin of linen
18 Also
19 Accomplishment
20 Fragment
21 Scrub, as a space mission
23 Old-hat
25 Pitcher type
26 Taverns
27 Petrol
28 Wails like a banshee
30 School org.
33 Golf course maintenance crew
36 Concoct
37 Canonical hour
38 Small plateaus
39 Rooster
40 Bashful
41 Before

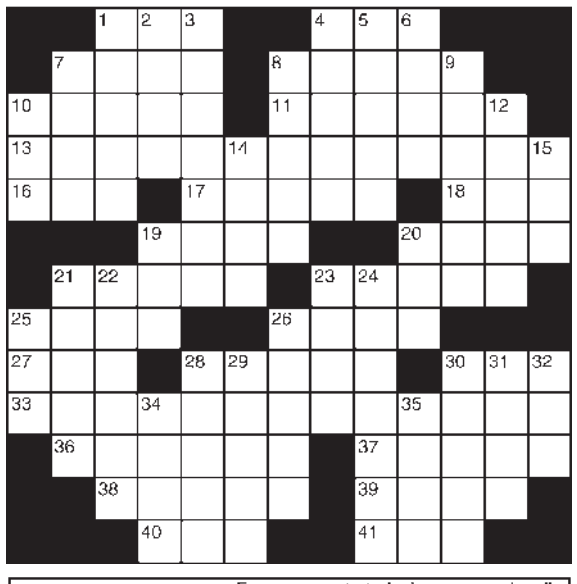
DOWN

1 Exultant
2 Teen's complexion woe
3 Unscrupulous lawyer
4 Yuletide rendition
5 Playing marble
6 Dog-sledding "giddyap"
7 Competent
8 Deserve
9 Boil
10 Recede
12 R2-D2, e.g.
14 Lake vessel
15 Bribe
19 Supporting
20 Dol. fractions
21 Prize
22 Suit, old-style
23 Sand formation
24 Lack
25 Ovum
26 Chinese dogs, for short
28 Deli turnover
29 English homework, often
30 Pound pieces
31 "Star —"
32 Fool
34 Prior nights
35 Indigent

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	I	S	A	■	R	O	W	■	S	E	C	T
E	I	A	L	■	A	M	O	■	A	L	O	E
E	C	R	U	■	Y	O	K	O	I	A	M	A
S	H	A	M	P	O	O	■	P	A	N	E	L
■	■	■	N	I	N	■	O	A	R	■	■	■
D	E	G	A	S	■	B	A	H	A	M	A	S
O	R	E	■	■	B	A	I	■	■	U	S	A
H	A	M	S	T	F	R	■	M	I	G	H	T
■	■	■	W	A	G	■	E	A	T	■	■	■
A	T	E	A	M	■	G	R	I	S	H	A	M
C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	■	E	A	S	E
T	A	R	P	■	O	B	I	■	L	I	E	N
S	I	N	S	■	U	S	E	■	F	R	A	U

Yesterday's answer 6-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ed Westwick, 25; Drake Bell, 26; Tobey Maguire, 37; J.J. Abrams, 46.

Happy Birthday: Avoid being too open, especially when dealing with family matters and with those who may judge you by your reactions. Revisit ideas and goals you have yet to develop, and take on a role that allows you to follow your heart. Heading in an unfamiliar direction will lead to greater knowledge and experience. Your numbers are 6, 11, 19, 22, 26, 30, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put more time and effort into your home, money and relationships. You will be able to tie up loose ends by keeping your options open and relying on experience. Revisit hobbies, friends or places you used to frequent. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Lean on a trusted person who has the same end goal as you. Don't let added pressure get you down when creativity can bring a workable solution. Don't misinterpret someone's interest in you. Ulterior motives are present. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't get agitated when keeping busy is all that's required to accomplish your goals. Losing time over a senseless disagreement isn't worth your time and energy. Success is your ticket to a better place. Focus on enhancing your love life. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Size up your situation and you will be able to find a suitable resolution. Emotional problems may restrict you if you aren't prepared to find alternative means of taking care of responsibilities that crop up. Listen, observe and avoid opposition. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You've got what it takes to convince others to back your ideas. Be responsible and you will enhance your reputation and position yourself for advancement. You don't have to buy your way into anything. Use your charisma, not your cash. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do whatever it takes to get your way, but don't upset someone who can influence your future. Know who to bend to and who to put in place. Don't follow the crowd regarding an unsafe venture. Tactfully decline and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Love, life and fitting in will be what counts. Offer your original ideas, and compliment those who have something to contribute in return. Think big and opportunities will develop with someone whose company you enjoy. A lifestyle change will bring good results. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Keep life simple and keep your overhead small. Stick to the rules and focus on budgeting and saving for something special. Deal with competition graciously. Positive action and travel will help you excel. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Rethink your plans before you share them with someone in a high position. Be realistic and don't take on too much. Falling short of your expectations will make others question your ability. Focus on reputation, status and love. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Concentrate on making financial gains. Don't take on responsibilities that will not bring you the returns you need to get ahead. Impulsive decisions or moves must be avoided. Find out where you stand regarding friends, relatives and partners. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Fortuitous offerings will come from an unexpected source. Contracts, settlements, promises and relationships will turn in your favor. Changes at home will result in greater stability. Love and self-improvement should be arranged. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stay on top of every situation you face. Opposition and underhandedness will develop if you let your guard down. Dishonesty from you or someone else will turn a small problem into a big fiasco. Focus on home, family and helping others. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative and witty. You are helpful, kind and tolerant.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5	6	8			
		4				7		
		3				1		
	8	7	1	3	9	6	2	
	3						5	
	6			2			1	
	1			5			6	
	9						7	
		5	6	7	1	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	8	7	1	6	5	4	2
7	6	5	2	8	4	1	9	3
4	1	2	3	9	5	8	7	6
8	4	7	5	6	2	3	1	9
5	3	9	8	7	1	2	6	4
1	2	6	9	4	3	7	5	8
6	8	4	1	3	7	9	2	5
2	7	3	6	5	9	4	8	1
9	5	1	4	2	8	6	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/26

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAPTAIN KANGAROO'S BIRTHDAY Solution: 8 letters

P	P	F	T	A	O	C	L	O	C	K	E	V	I	N
U	I	U	R	O	L	L	O	P	P	I	H	O	N	E
P	C	N	F	I	N	D	M	R	B	A	X	T	E	R
P	L	N	G	F	E	M	U	T	E	I	B	B	E	D
E	A	Y	S	P	I	N	I	A	T	P	A	C	R	L
T	V	Y	E	O	O	N	D	A	N	C	I	N	G	I
S	E	S	K	U	O	N	G	S	R	A	L	P	H	H
K	R	I	O	C	R	G	G	B	L	T	F	A	V	C
E	G	N	J	H	A	O	R	B	I	I	I	E	S	C
E	N	N	G	E	G	O	E	U	A	L	M	E	N	H
S	I	E	A	S	N	D	T	N	N	(L)	L	R	A	O
H	N	D	M	T	A	B	N	N	I	(A)	L	Y	E	P
A	R	A	E	B	K	O	I	Y	M	(M)	A	S	J	L
N	O	A	S	O	I	D	A	R	A	(B)	W	C	O	E
A	M	O	O	S	E	Y	P	T	L	E	S	U	O	H

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Animal, Artie, Bear, Bunny, Captain, Children, Chop, Clash, Claver, Clock, Coat, Dancing, Debbie, Dennis, Fan, Find, Friends, Funny, Games, Goodbody, Green, Help, Hippo, House, Jeans, Jokes, Kangaroo, Keeshan, Kevin, Keys, Lamb, Moose, Morning, Mr. Baxter, Mute, Painter, Pingpong Balls, Pouches, Puffing Billy, Puppets, Radio, Ralph, Rollo, Slim, Team, Wall

Yesterday's Answer: Jive Talkin'

The NEW Treasury 12 can be ordered by sending a check or money order for $7.95 (add just $3.00 postage and handling, $4.95 total U.S. funds only) for the first book, $7.00 for each additional book, to Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-2806. Credit card orders and discounts for orders of five or more books also available.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Fortune hunter

LOOKING TO BUY VEHICLES

Seriously looking for used cars Year 2003 & up 4 cylinder & truck. Good condition. We pay cash! Call 287-7676

LOOKING FOR JOB

I am a Chinese Male, Simple English. I can be a driver, farmer, laborer and can also do general maintenance. Tel. 287-6686.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Massage Shop on Guam. sale for business (not real estate) well populated area. $10,000. call 671-727-8447 or send inquiry to tropicisla@hotmail.com

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

GANA CORPORATION dba GANA DAYCARE CENTER NEEDS

(1) TEACHER

Qualifications:
- Education Graduate
- Has 70 hr. Cohort Training (NMC 70 hours)
- Christian
- Can speak/understand Korean language
- Must have 3 years experience

Call Ms. Jin at 287-4970

PACIFIC MARINE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Marine Fiber Glass Technician
(1) Marine Boat Carpenter
Must have 5 years experience
Salary based on experience

Please email resume to
wts_plee@yahoo.com

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Duplex Apt Capitol Hill

2 br, 1 bth, Fully Furnished
w/ AC, Linens, Pots, Pans, etc.,
very private: 322-2424

JOON CORPORATION is looking for:

DANCERS, WAITRESSES, BARTENDERS

Qualifications: High school graduate. A minimum of five years of work-related skill, knowledge or experience. Willing to work late hours.

Applications may be submitted to Joon Corp. dba King's Club at Garapan, Saipan or email cross_road_44@hotmail.com, Tel. No. 233-0353 or 483-5382
All applications must be accompanied by a current resume.

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
Samsung, Philips, Vizio
Call for more information
CalugTron **233-5641**
Open: 7 Day a Week • 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

LAWN CARE SERVICE
(BUSH CUTTING)
CALL: 287-0319

C & R CORPORATION - FOR NEW HIRING

PURCHASING OFFICER
NEED TO HAVE 2 - 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
RATE: $5.55 - $6.75
SALARY WILL BE BASED ON EXPERIENCE

PLEASE E-MAIL RESUME AT CANDR@PTICOM.COM

FOR SALE

(1) Used 1985 International Auger Truck
(1) Used Samsung Excavator with Rock Breaker
Price Negotiable Please call
#234-3201 or 483-3201

HOUSE FOR RENT

A 4BR, 2bath, concrete house with large living and kitchen area, two car garage and 24 hrs. water in a private, clean and safe neighborhood located in the Villagomez Family Compound in Manha Lane, Fina Sisu. $750.00 monthly unfurnished.

Deposit required. Utilities not included. Call 234-6108

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.
DBA: SUCCESS AUTO REPAIR SHOP
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) BODY REPAIRMAN / WELDER
RATE: $5.05 - $5.50 PER HOUR

(1) AUTO AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT ELECTRICIAN
RATE: $5.50 - $6.00 PER HOUR

QUALIFICATIONS:
MORE THAN 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
H.S. VOCATIONAL OR COLLEGE LEVEL

Knowledgeable in mechanical problem.
In charge of repairing, troubleshooting and upgrading the vehicle's electrical system as well as the devices that relies on electrical energy.

KNOW HOW TO DIAGNOSE ELECTRICAL WIRING/CABLE PROBLEM OF VEHICLE

KNOW HOW TO REPAIR OR HANDLE EVERYTHING SUCH AS VEHICLE IGNITION, ALARM, COOLING AND HEATING SYSTEM, POWER WINDOW AND LOCK, NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

APPLY OR SEND RESUME TO SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL CORP.
PMB 778 BOX 10003 SAIPAN, MP 96950
LOWER BASE OR CALL 322-1558/1988

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 · T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
DEPUTY CLERK 1
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court, CNMI Judicial Branch
SAIPAN

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Superior Court is seeking Deputy Clerk 1, Office of the Clerk of Court on the islands of SAIPAN.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties: receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings; provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system; provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including but not limited to the document imaging and online filing system; inspects physical and electronic documents submitted to court, including looking for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court order or court rules; assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window; prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files; serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including but not limited to swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and, performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: A high school degree or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Candidates must possess a valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances and be able to demonstrate eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: These are ungraded positions appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Starting salary will be between $20,485 and $24,950 per annum, commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Application forms may be obtained at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI may be submitted at: the Judiciary Administrative Office at the House of Justice in Susupe, Saipan, the Superior Court offices on Rota and Tinian or addressed to Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. This job announcement will remain open until filled. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 · T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Marshal in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms;
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Candidate must provide proof of valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances, and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, resumes, proof of high school graduation, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI should be submitted at: the Judiciary Administrative Office at the House of Justice in Susupe, Saipan, the Superior Court offices on Rota and Tinian or addressed to the Judiciary Administrative Office, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. This job announcement will remain open until filled. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

TUNE
TUNE
TUNE
TUNE
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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Heat celebrate in the streets of Miami

MIAMI (AP)—The NBA championship trophy was center stage, bathed in white light and sitting on a pedestal. And each Miami Heat player offered it a different greeting.

Mike Miller bowed. Udonis Haslem kissed it three times. Chris Bosh hugged it, and LeBron James strolled past before waving at the crowd.

Dwyane Wade did something different. In a nod to his preferred postgame fashion style throughout the playoffs, he emerged with a pair of faux eyeglasses and slipped the frames onto the neck of the trophy. Heat president Pat Riley, coach Erik Spoelstra and team managing general partner Micky Arison all donned the black spectacles as well at various points during the party.

The glasses were fake. The sentiments were all real.

And with that, two years after Wade, James and Bosh opened their time together with a celebration, they got the party they really wanted on Monday. An estimated 400,000 people filled the streets of Miami for the Heat championship parade, and then 15,000 more got into the arena afterward for a long, loud reception for the NBA's new kings.

"It's the best feeling I've ever had. ... This was my dream, right here, to be able to hoist that Larry O'Brien Trophy up, hug it, grab it, never want to let it go," James said.

During the parade, players and coaches were on double-decker buses with friends and family, most of them taking photos and video of the crowd. Other Heat staff were on flatbed trucks, as confetti fell and horns blared every step of the way. Wade cradled the championship trophy in his arms for much of the ride.

"I appreciate all our fans for sticking with us," said the now two-time NBA champion Wade, adding, "Best fans in the world."

And then the party moved inside, with a similar setup to the event that welcomed James and Bosh to Miami to play alongside Wade in July 2010. Music blared for nearly an hour as fans danced for joy, before the arena went dark briefly—and the trophy was sneaked onto the stage.

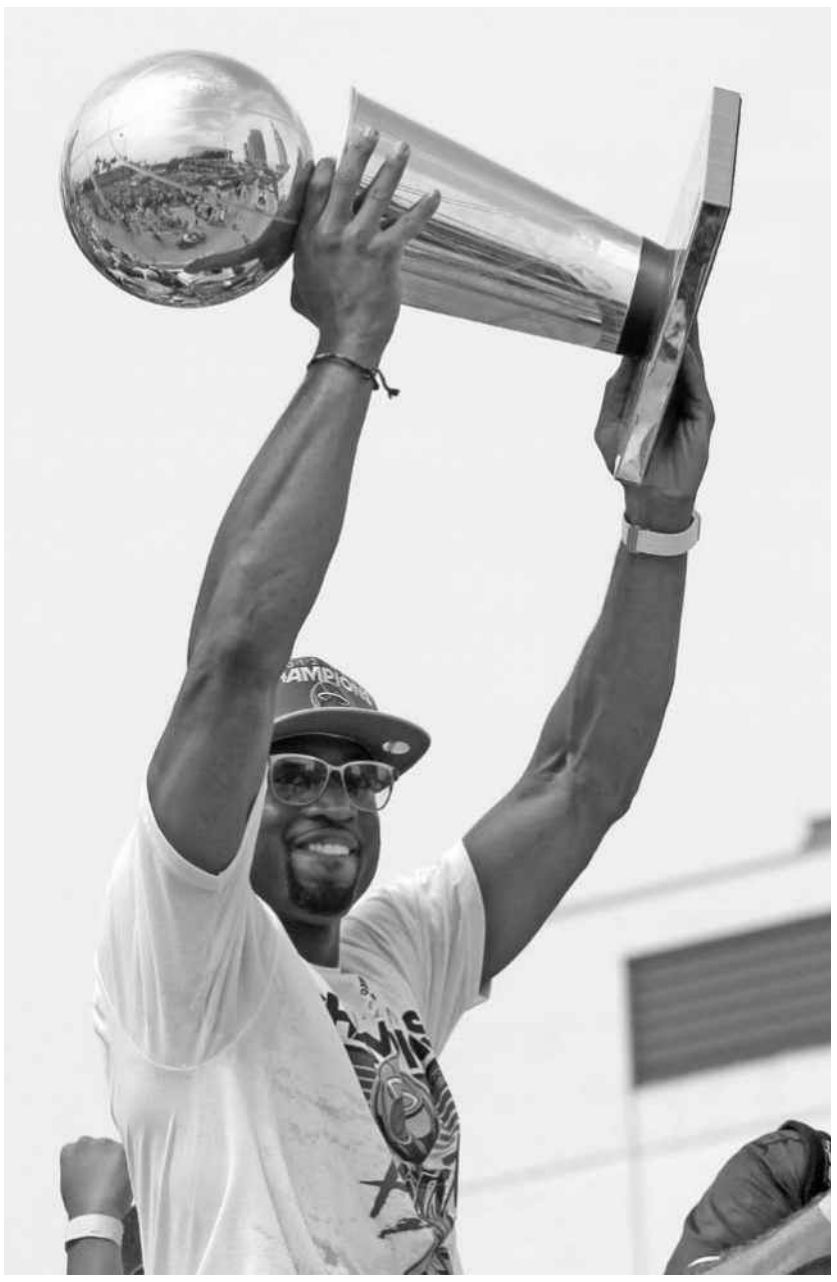
For nearly 90 minutes afterward, the Heat relived so many aspects of the season, from Haslem's flagrant foul against Indiana's Tyler Hansbrough in the Eastern Conference semifinals ("the greatest flagrant foul in team history," Heat broadcaster Eric Reid told the crowd) to countless highlights from the NBA Finals against Oklahoma City, the Heat left few stones unturned.

Juwan Howard—the first member of Michigan's Fab Five to win an NBA title—did the Cabbage Patch dance, as teammates broke into absolute hysterics, waving their arms in time with him. Mario Chalmers was asked about why Wade and James yell at him so much on the court, as a montage of some of their more fiery moments played on the giant video screens. And the Miami natives, Haslem and James Jones, got perhaps the loudest ovations of anyone outside of the finals MVP.

"Feels great, man," said Haslem, who along with Wade is the lone holdover from Miami's 2006 championship club. "Changing my name from Mr. Miami to Mr. Two-Time. I ain't Mr. Miami no more. I'm Mr. Two-Time. ... It never gets old. But this one is more gratifying because of the way last season ended."

Spoelstra had a similar sentiment, talking to the crowd about the team's commitment, especially after Miami lost last season's finals to Dallas.

"People from the outside, they criticized this group, this team," Spoelstra said. "They counted this team out. But they never estimated how close this group was as a family. Every single one of these players had to sacrifice something, either money, opportunity, minutes to be a part of this dream. And it was all for a moment like this."



AP

Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade holds up the NBA Championship Trophy as he rides atop a doubledecker bus during a parade in Miami, Monday, June 25, 2012, in celebration of winning the NBA Finals basketball championship against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

After the celebrating was done, there was business. Wade reiterated that he would seek medical advice before committing to play with the Olympic team. Bosh—who missed nine playoff games with a strained lower abdominal muscle—said he was "all in, for now" on being part of the London Games. And Miller, who was hobbled by back and foot issues, said on Twitter he planned to meet with Miami neurosurgeon Dr. Barth Green on Tuesday, presumably to get checked out and discuss options.

Miami won the title by defeating Oklahoma City in five games in the NBA Finals. It was the second title for the Heat and the first for James, who nodded and pointed to fans for much of the parade. James came to Miami after seven years in Cleveland, and after he and the Heat fell in the finals a year ago, he's finally a champion.

"It's good being around other people who support LeBron," said Doug Mead of Toledo, Ohio, who came to the parade with his family. "They really don't like him in Ohio. They celebrate when he loses."

Everyone was celebrating in Miami on Monday. Arison snapped and tweeted several photos during the parade. Riley shouted "Thank you" to fans over and over, as his wife, Chris, stood to his left and led "Let's go Heat" chants.

Some fans began lining up for spots along the parade route Sunday night.

"I've been a fan since '89. For me personally I feel like I'm part of the Heat family," said Dexter Pace of West Palm Beach, Fla. "I've been through the goods, the bads, the losses, the trades, and now it's like someone in my family has accomplished something. .... It's going to mean a lot for the city of Miami, winning the championship."

As the event ended, Bosh thanked both the fans inside the arena and those outside, saying that without them, nothing would be possible for the Heat.

"It feels right," Bosh said. "This is how it's supposed to be ... and I would like to do it all the time."

Giants win, close in on Dodgers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco's Pablo Sandoval hit a two-run double and sacrifice fly to help the Giants to an 8-0 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday, cutting the gap between the National League West's top teams to two games.

San Francisco's Barry Zito end a three-start losing streak.

Angel Pagan and Hector Sanchez each drove in two runs for the Giants, who are closest to the NL West lead since early April.

Reds 3, Brewers 1

In Cincinnati, Mat Latos struck out a personal-best 13 batters in his second career complete game as Cincinnati beat Milwaukee.

The National League Central leaders won for only the second time in seven games. The Brewers, who won the division last year, have dropped eight of 13, falling 7 1/2 games back—one short of their season high.

Phillies 8, Pirates 3

In Philadelphia, Joe Blanton threw seven effective innings and Jimmy Rollins homered for the fourth time in five games as Philadelphia downed Pittsburgh.

Blanton (7-6) allowed three runs—two earned—and seven hits, striking out eight.

The Phillies are 15-2 against the Pirates in their last 17 meetings at Citizens Bank Park.

Cardinals 8, Marlins 7, 10 innings

In Miami, Rafael Furcal and pinch-hitting pitcher Joe Kelly drove in runs in the 10th inning as St. Louis edged Miami and held on for its fourth straight victory.

Yadier Molina earlier hit a two-run homer off Miami reliever Heath Bell in the ninth, capping a four-run inning and tying the game 6-6.

Rockies 4, Nationals 2

In Denver, Stephen Strasburg came up short in his record-breaking attempt as Colorado downed Washington.

Strasburg (9-2) allowed three runs in six innings. He was bidding to become the first Washington-based pitcher to win seven straight starts since Bob Porterfield did it for the Senators in 1953. The last pitcher from the Nationals franchise to win seven straight starts was Pedro Martinez in 1997 for the Montreal Expos, who moved to Washington.

Cubs 6, Mets 1

In Chicago, Joe Mather hit a two-run homer as Chicago downed New York and ended a four-game losing skid.

Cubs starter Travis Wood (2-3) struck out six over seven scoreless innings. He has given up just eight runs in 31 2-3 innings this month.

Padres 8, Astros 7, 10 innings

In Houston, Carlos Quentin hit an RBI double in the 10th inning to lift San Diego over Houston.

Chase Headley walked with one out and stole second before Quentin drove him in with a drive off Brandon Lyon (0-2).

Yankees 7, Indians 1

In New York, Robinson Cano homered and drove in three runs and Hiroki Kuroda took a shutout into the eighth inning as the New York Yankees beat the Cleveland Indians.

Nick Swisher and Dewayne Wise also went deep for the homer-happy Yankees, who opened a seven-game homestand against the top two teams in the AL Central with their third consecutive victory and 13th in 16 games. New York roughed up Josh Tomlin (3-5) early and breezed the rest of the way.

Tigers 8, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Miguel Cabrera drove in three runs with a pair of doubles, and Rick Porcello struck out seven in six innings as Detroit beat Texas.

After their first 12 batters, the Tigers had already roughed up Rangers rookie right-hander Justin Grimm (1-1) for six runs and eight hits. They had only five runs and 15 hits while losing two of three in Pittsburgh over the weekend.

Blue Jays 9, Red Sox 6

In Boston, Jose Bautista, Colby Rasmus and J.P. Arencibia hit two-run homers to lead Toronto past Boston.

The Blue Jays overcame three errors, blowing an early four-run lead and two homers by David Ortiz, tying him for the most multihomer game in Red Sox history.

Ortiz had his 37th multihomer game for Boston, tying Ted Williams for the club record.

Royals 8, Rays 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Luke Hochevar pitched his second career shutout, and Eric Hosmer homered and Yuniesky Betancourt drove in three runs to lead Kansas City past Tampa Bay.

Alcides Escobar and Alex Gordon both had three hits for the Royals, who were coming off an embarrassing sweep at the hands of St. Louis in which they were outscored 30-14.

Twins 4, White Sox 1

In Minneapolis, Francisco Liriano spoiled Kevin Youkilis' first game with Chicago, throwing a season-high seven innings to lead Minnesota over Chicago.

Liriano (2-7) allowed just three singles, two walks and a double. The lefthander struck out five and won for the first time this month. He held Chicago without a run until Alexei Ramirez's sacrifice fly in the seventh inning.

Athletics 1, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Tommy Milone became the first Oakland rookie to earn eight wins before the All-Star break by beating Seattle.

Milone (8-5) struck out five and didn't walk anyone in his second straight superb outing. Last Wednesday, he threw the first complete game by a rookie in the majors this season, against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Venus Williams loses at Wimbledon

AP

Venus Williams of the United States waves to fans after being defeated by Elena Vesnina of Russia during a first round women's singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, England, Monday, June 25, 2012.

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Racket bag slung over her shoulder, resignation written across her face, Venus Williams weaved through fans milling about on the sidewalks that players must traverse to get from Court 2 to the Wimbledon locker rooms.

The 32-year-old Williams had just absorbed a lopsided first-round loss at the Grand Slam tournament she once ruled, a poor performance that raised questions about how much longer she will keep playing tennis while dealing with an energy-sapping illness.

She trudged by as her hitting partner, David Witt, was saying: "It's tough to watch sometimes. I think everybody sees it. I don't know what else to say."

Looking lethargic, and rarely showing off the power-based game that carried her to five Wimbledon titles and seven majors overall, Williams departed meekly Monday with a 6-1, 6-3 defeat against 79th-ranked Elena Vesnina of Russia. Only once before—as a teenager making her Wimbledon debut in 1997—had Williams exited so early at the All England Club.

She hadn't lost in the first round at any Grand Slam tournament in 6 1/2 years. Still, Williams said she'll be at the London Olympics next month and is "planning" to be back at Wimbledon next year.

"I feel like I'm a great player," Williams said, sounding a tad like someone trying to convince herself.

She repeated that affirmation as she continued: "I am a great player. Unfortunately, I had to deal with circumstances that people don't normally have to deal with in this sport. But I can't be discouraged by that. ... There's no way I'm just going to sit down and give up just because I have a hard time the first five or six freakin' tournaments back."

Later, as part of a slightly testy and awkward exchange with reporters, Williams said: "I'm tough, let me tell you. Tough as nails."

Her loss, in her first match since a second-round ouster at the French Open, was part of an odd Day 1, even if the true tournament favorites in action won easily: Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Maria Sharapova. Among those sent home were sixth-seeded Tomas Berdych, the 2010 runner-up at Wimbledon; 11th-seeded John Isner; No. 16 Flavia Pennetta; and No. 18 Jelena Jankovic, who was rather easily beaten 6-2, 6-4 by Kim Clijsters, a four-time major champion who has been beset by injuries in her last season on tour and, like Williams, is unseeded.

Other seeded losers: No. 23 Andreas Seppi, No. 24 Marcel Granollers and No. 27 Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, who was upset by 100th-ranked Jamie Hampton of the United States 6-4, 7-6 (1).

Truth be told, the biggest surprise might very well have been the way Isner—the highest-ranked American man—blew a match point, wasted a two-sets-to-one lead, dropped a tiebreaker on grass, and bid a 6-4, 6-7 (7), 3-6, 7-6 (7), 7-5 farewell to Wimbledon in the first round against 73rd-ranked Alejandro Falla of Colombia.

Then again, there's a pattern here.

It's the third consecutive major tournament that Isner leaves after a five-set loss, including 18-16 at the French Open against 261st-ranked Paul-Henri Mathieu. This from a guy who's best known for winning the longest match in tennis history, 70-68 in the fifth after more than 11 hours, against Nicolas Mahut at Wimbledon in 2010.

"I didn't put my opponent away. I had my chances, and I didn't do it. It's all on me. Was just not great on my part," said the 6-foot-9 Isner, who hit 31 aces to Falla's four. "I get out there sometimes, and lately it's happening quite a lot, and I get out there in the match and I'm just so clouded. I just can't seem to figure things out. I'm my own worst enemy out there. It's all mental for me, and it's pretty poor on my part."

Mental strength has long been viewed as Ernests Gulbis' weakness, because his strokes are as good as they come, but the 23-year-old from Latvia who is ranked 87th stood tall in a 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4) victory over Berdych.

"A lot of players mature later than others. Some mature at 15; some mature at 29. I hope it's somewhere in between; 23 is OK," Gulbis said. "If I hit the ball well, I hit stronger than everybody else. It is like this, you know. Maybe only couple guys hit the ball as strong as I do."

Used to be that Williams could say that when comparing herself to other top women. She and her younger sister Serena rewrote the way the game was played in the late 1990s and early 2000s, with 120 mph serves and ferocious forehands.

But Williams hasn't been that player for quite a while now. She announced in August that she had been diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease that can cause fatigue and joint pain.

Her match against Vesnina was at Court 2, which was built three years ago; Serena complained about having to play on it in 2011. For years prior, the name "Court 2" was assigned to a venue about half the size and a few minutes' walk away, a place known as the "Graveyard of Champions" because of a series of stunning losses by top players: Serena, Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe and Pete Sampras.

Care to guess where Serena is scheduled to play her first-round match Tuesday? Yep, that's right: Court 2.

The older Williams has played only 18 matches in 2012, going 12-6, and looked rather ordinary against Vesnina, who is more accomplished in doubles and never made it past the fourth round at a major tournament in singles.

"Of course I was scared. Not scared, but I was, like, aware of her serve. But I think she didn't serve that well today," said Vesnina, who recalled watching on TV when Williams beat Lindsay Davenport in the 2005 Wimbledon final.

"Maybe for her, it was not one of her best days," Vesnina said about Monday. "But for me, it was one of the best days."

Williams fell behind 5-0, and needed 30 minutes to win a single game. She got broken the first four times she served. She rolled her eyes or shook her head after missed shots. Her father pulled out his camera late in the second set and snapped some photos from the stands, maybe wondering right along with some spectators whether this might be Williams' last singles match at Wimbledon.

At her news conference, Williams was asked what will drive her, given the way she's struggling.

"Am I struggling?" Williams replied. "Am I?"

Source: Redskins QB Griffin target of extortion

DALLAS (AP)—A former Baylor basketball player is facing a federal extortion charge for allegedly threatening to release "derogatory information" about Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III unless he was paid.

Richard Khamir Hurd, 25, was arraigned Monday in federal court in Waco. His bond was set at $25,000.

A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press that Griffin, the Baylor quarterback who was the No. 2 overall draft choice of the Washington Redskins, was the target of the alleged extortion attempt. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because authorities had not disclosed the fact.

Griffin was at an NFL rookie symposium Monday in Ohio, where players were not made available to reporters.

Court documents say that last week, Hurd contacted a representative from a St. Louis agency, threatening to publicize derogatory information about a client unless he was paid a "substantial sum" of money. The representative is identified in documents only by the initials B.D.

Griffin's agent is St. Louis-based Ben Dogra, who didn't respond to messages Monday. The documents don't name Griffin.

According to court documents, Hurd met at a Waco business Friday with someone who agreed to handle the transaction. After signing a non-disclosure agreement, handing over the information and receiving a check, Hurd was arrested by an undercover FBI agent, documents said.

Hurd's attorney did not return calls seeking comment.

Hurd's mother, Marlene Hurd, told The AP on Monday she'd heard that her son was in jail but wasn't aware of the details.

"Whatever it is, I pray by the grace of God that he's innocent," she said.

Griffin's Heisman Trophy, the first in the history of the world's largest Baptist university, came after he led the Bears to only their second 10-win season in 112 years. In his three-year career, Griffin set or tied 54 school records.

Washington traded three first-round picks and a second-rounder to the St. Louis Rams to move into the No. 2 slot to draft Griffin.

The past year also saw Baylor win the NCAA women's basketball championship with a 40-0 record and reach the round of 16 for the second time in three years in the men's tournament.

However, less than a week after the Lady Bears won the title, the NCAA put the Waco school on three years' probation after an investigation turned up hundreds of impermissible telephone calls and text messages sent to prep recruits by coaches and assistants on the two basketball teams.

Hurd played basketball at Baylor as a walk-on, from the 2004-05 season through the 2007-08 season, after a high school career at Heritage Christian Academy in Cleveland north of Houston, according to Baylor sports information. His brother, Lamar Hurd, also played at Heritage Christian and later at Oregon State.

The brothers helped Heritage Christian become one of the top private school programs in Texas, and the school's former coach, Jerome Tang, is now a Baylor assistant.

Hyatt hosts Run For A Cause

Hyatt Regency Saipan will be holding the 2012 Run For A Cause this Saturday.

The event will feature half marathon and 10K races. The 21-kilometer (13.1 miles) half marathon will start and end at the Hyatt Regency Saipan at Micro Beach with runners going to as far as the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio (turning point) through Beach Road. The 10km race (6.21 miles) will also begin and end at Hyatt with a turning point across Hakubotan in Beach Road, just before the San Jose traffic lights.

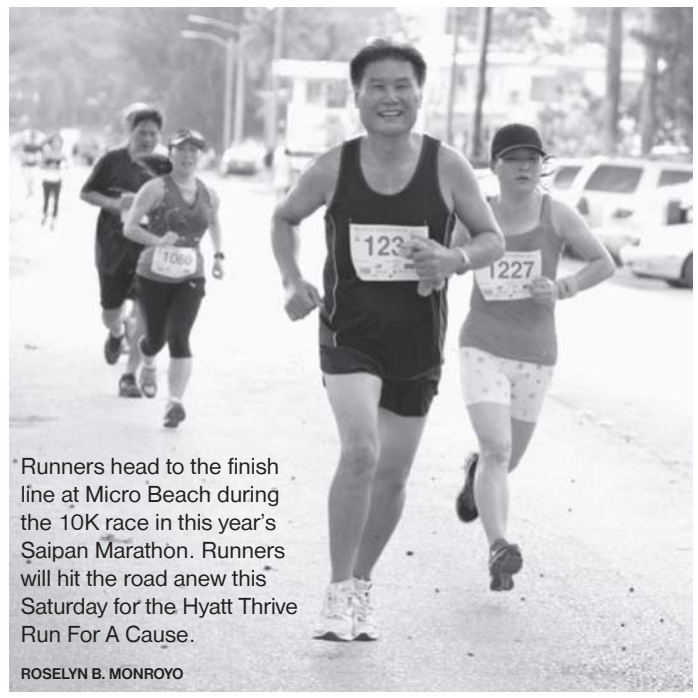
Entrance fee is only $35 if made on or before June 29. Late registration costs $45, inclusive of entry to the awards banquet at Hyatt. Participants will also be allowed to use Club Elan fitness center and the swimming pool for one day and receive the signature "Run For A Cause" T-shirt.

Check-in time is from 5:15am to 5:45am, as the half marathon will kick off at exactly 6am, while the 10km race will begin at 6:30am.

Interested runners can enter six age group races: 14-and-under, 18-and-under, 19 to 29, 30 to 49, 50 to 59, and 60-and-above. There will be separate prize packages for male and women's finishers.

The 2012 Run For A Cause is part of Hyatt Thrive's activities that aimed at raising awareness on health and wellness through promotion of local events, such as this weekend's race.

For more information, contact Club Elan fitness center at 323-5850. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***



Runners head to the finish line at Micro Beach during the 10K race in this year's Saipan Marathon. Runners will hit the road anew this Saturday for the Hyatt Thrive Run For A Cause.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MIEKO

From Page 28

The 34-year-old triathlete was first out of the water in her age group, completing the 1.9-kilometer (1.2-mile) swim leg in 24:49.

"Swimmers started in waves. The pros started at 7:30am and our wave began at 8:35am. Water temperature was 23.8 degrees Celsius. It was cold for me, as I am used to the warm water on Saipan. I was lucky that we swam with current," Carey said.

Next up for Carey was the grueling 90-kilometer (56 miles) bike race, which according to her had so many 90-degree turns at the start and brought bikers to an old Japanese neighborhood. As if the many twirls in the first 18 miles (29 km) were not enough punishment, Carey had to go through up and downhill roads similar to the XTERRA Saipan course for the most parts of the remaining 61 km (38 miles).

"When two ladies went past me, I tried to keep up with them, but then I thought I still have to run 13 miles. I remember my coach telling me not to race against anyone, but against myself," said Carey, who finished the bike leg in 2:51:00.

For the final phase of the race—the 21.1 km (13.1 miles) run—Carey relaxed a bit at the start and enjoyed the course that was up and downhill and near the ocean side. Carey and other runners also climbed up a few stairs and crossed a bridge. At the 9 km (6 miles) mark, Carey went on to pass the second runner in her age group, but then in the last three miles, fatigue took its toll in her, as he started to feel dizzy.

"After 16 km (10 miles), I just walked. Then I tried to jog and forget the pain. I kept on thinking about the finish line. Then in the last one mile (1.6 km), I stopped. My body was telling me to stop, but my brain was telling me otherwise. I just want to finish," Carey said.

The Saipan triathlete went on to reach the finish line about five minutes ahead of runner-up Nicole Hart (5:06:39) of Australia. Japan's Yoriko Masuda rounded out the Top 3 in the women's 30 to 34 age group, timing in at 5:14:31.

Australia's Chris McCormack, who won last year's Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, was the No. 1 overall finisher in the Japan race, submitting 4:03:40 and beating compatriot Tim Berkel (4:03:42) in a down-to-the-wire race. Japan's Keiko Tanaka was the first female finisher with her 4:37:33.

This year's Half Ironman Japan was Carey's first, but she had been to two Half Ironman races in Kansas.

"In Kansas, I had bad races due to injuries, but last weekend in Japan, I was not injured and I had a nice race. My goal was to finish under five hours and I missed it so I will come back next year and go for it," Carey said.

ROLLERS

From Page 28

olani Rios in the second frame as the team barely held off a big comeback in the clutch by its rivals.

Sixers' Raymond Villagomez dropped 13 points that went with 8 in support by Vincent Iba, but the squad came up just one basket short of forcing overtime.

Villagomez topped the field with 17 points in the heartbreaker, while Rios led Rollers 16-B with 13 points.

Back on Saturday, U25's R-Rebels trotted out to a 26-14 lead at the half with Ben Lisua and Trevor Ogumoro pacing the squad with 7 points apiece.

Hi-5's Manny Aldan sank a trio of 3-pointers in the second half, but the group simply fell too far behind.

Seven different R-Rebels chimed in during the second period as they coasted to an easy win.

R-Rebels' Ogumoro turned in a baker's dozen in the win, while Hi-5's Aldan and Frank Machahito each finished with 9.

In the second match, U25's Saints assumed a healthy 19-9 lead in the first half primarily from a 10-point tear by Arvin Avila.

The Saints did a good job containing GVH mainstays Juan Ogarto and Dom Reyes throughout the contest and received a diverse offensive production in the payoff period.

Saints' Luizi Reyes led the unit with 11 that was complemented by output by a handful of others, securing the win.

Bench support made the difference in this match as Saints' Luizi Reyes and Avila teamed up for 25 points, tying GVH's Ogarto and Dom Reyes.

TUESDAY
First Game

Rollers 16-B 36 – Rios 13, Deocares 12, Amory 4, Ogasawara 4, Vivero 2.

Sixers 34 – Villagomez 17, Iba 11, Bondoc 2, Ngeskebei 2, Taitano 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-11, 36-34

Second Game

Roller B-14 30 – Espinosa 9, Morales 5, Cano 4, Fidelino 4, Darag 3, Francisco 3.

RBC Agape 23 –Yu 12, Ellama 4, Ren 4, Chan 2, Valenzuela 1.

Scoring by halves: 14-9, 30-23.

SATURDAY
First Game

R-Rebels 48 – Ogumoro 13, Lisua 9, Camacho, Litulumar 6, Nawaz 6, Hambros 4, Norita 2, Chen 2.

Hi-5 36 – Aldan 9, F. Machahito 9, G .Machahito 6, Hockett 4, Atalig 2, Cabaltica 2, Cristobal 2, Urbano 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-14, 48-36.

Second Game

Saints 45 – Lu. Reyes 13, Avila 12, Brennan 5, Cruz 4, Galarse 4, L.J. Reyes 3, Castro 2, Iglesias 2.

GVH 36 – Ogarto 13, D Reyes 12, Ulloa 5, D Camacho 2, Iguel 2, Tenorio 2.

Scoring by halves: 19-9, 45-36.

SENATE

From Page 28

He was also unanimously voted in as a member of the Little League Baseball International Board Of Directors in Guam in 2004 and went on to serve again as an ASPAC advisor in 2005 and 2008.

In an interview last week, Ada reflected on some of the most memorable moments during his lengthy tenure as district administrator.

According to Ada, his first big accomplishment was re-chartering the Saipan Little League's Senior and Big divisions back in 1997, which resulted in the Big League's first-ever appearance in the Little League World Series as lone representatives of what was known at the time as the Far East region in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Then in 1998, the CNMI Big Leaguers defeated host team Guam to outright advance for the first time to the World Series and followed it up with another series berth over Guam in 1999 in Palau, proving the program's previous success was no fluke.

In other divisions, Ada reflected back to the Junior Division's run where they raised five consecutive Asia-Pacific Regional championships from 2001 to 2005.

During that reign, 2004 was probably the most memorable as three CNMI teams—Majors, Juniors, and Seniors—advanced to the World Series. The Big League came up just a run short to Guam that season.

Ada added that the CNMI won the Big League regional championship in 2001, 2007, and 2008, while the Senior League brought home the goods in 2010.

In addition to witnessing the success of the CNMI teams in an international forum, Ada also was fortunate to meet a number of poplar baseball figures during his time as a Little League International board member from 2004 to 2007.

Ada shook hands with some household names such as Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig, New York Yankees' Mike Mussina, former Dodgers skipper Tommy Lasorda, hall of famer Joe Morgan, esteemed MLB manager Bobby Valentine, and former pitcher Orel Hershiser, among others.

In addition to the 17 years as district administrator, Ada actually has been involved with Little League for 26 years and has held virtually every position from coaching to umpiring, keeping score, acting as announcer, statistician, and even wrote some sports articles for the newspaper back in the day.

He coached the Major League all-stars in 1983, the Senior all-stars in 1986, and the Big League all-stars in 1988.

Meanwhile, his successor, Borja, holds an impressive resume as well, which includes over 20 years of service to the local Little League program.

Borja started volunteering in 1989 and has since served two terms as Saipan Little League president. He was also named the ASPAC director six times.

Borja also directed multiple CNMI District tourneys, served as SLLB vice president, and participated in the Little League International's Officer Development Training Program in 2005.

He was recently voted in as the new district administrator in a vote of 2-1 over longtime Little League supporter Patrick Tenorio, who was the only other candidate who submitted a resume for the position.

Borja will takeover from Ada on Oct. 1 and he will serve a three-year term.

COMMONWEALTH

From Page 28

Beo Ngirchongor and Michael Mancao. The two Commonwealth runners are in the U20 age group and will be racing against sprinters from Fiji, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Guam, Tahiti, and the Solomon Islands. Eighteen runners are joining the qualifying heats in the 400m race.

Next up for the CNMI is Rachel Abrams, who will participate in the qualifying heats in the 100m sprint. Races will start at 12:30pm with Abrams facing runners from Fiji, Australia, Nauru, Guam, Fiji, and PNG.

Abrams' second event in Day1 is the long jump set for 1pm and she will compete against 10 other athletes, including the favored Cristina Smundin of Australia.

Orrin Pharmin will debut in the Oceania championship via the 200m qualifying race at 2:15 and will be up against 19 other runners.

Yvonne Bennett will then close out the CNMI's Day 1 campaign, as she races in the open 200m run at 4:20pm. Yvonne will be running against eight others.

In Day 2, Reylynn Sapong will compete in the U20 400m race at 2:30pm, while Bennett will join the same event in the open division at 2:50pm. Sapong and Bennett will then team up with Abrams and Rangamar in the women's 4x100m relay at 3:45pm.

For the final day of the championship, Abrams will run in the U20 200m qualifying heats at 12:05pm, while Ngirchongor will have his turn in the same event at 12:15pm. Mancao and Sapong will also compete in the final day via the U20 800m run, while Pharmin will race in the open 100m event at 1:30pm. Bennett is also entered in the women's open 100m race set for 3:30pm. The CNMI's last event will be the open 4x400m relay race where Bennett and company will compete against FSM, PNG, New Zealand, and Australia.

The championships will feature 20 regular member-countries of the Oceania Athletics Association and two associate members and relay guest teams from Japan. Over 400 athletes are competing in the event that serves as tune-up for the World Championship in Barcelona, Spain and the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

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MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	44	28	.611	–
Baltimore	41	31	.569	3
Tampa Bay	40	33	.548	4 1/2
Boston	38	35	.521	6 1/2
Toronto	38	35	.521	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	38	35	.521	–
Cleveland	37	35	.514	1/2
Detroit	36	37	.493	2
Kansas City	32	39	.451	5
Minnesota	30	42	.417	7 1/2

West Division

Texas	45	29	.608	–
Los Angeles	40	33	.548	4 1/2
Oakland	36	38	.486	9
Seattle	31	44	.413	14 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	41	30	.577	–
Atlanta	38	34	.528	3 1/2
New York	39	35	.527	3 1/2
Philadelphia	35	40	.467	8
Miami	34	39	.466	8

Central Division

Cincinnati	40	32	.556	–
Pittsburgh	38	34	.528	2
St. Louis	39	35	.527	2
Milwaukee	33	40	.452	7 1/2
Houston	30	43	.411	10 1/2
Chicago	25	48	.342	15 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	43	31	.581	–
San Francisco	41	33	.554	2
Arizona	37	35	.514	5
Colorado	28	44	.389	14
San Diego	27	47	.365	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brabu Gualo Rai, Team Pogi triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team Pogi kept its grip to the top spot, while Brabu Guali Rai moved up in the team standings after recording contrasting wins in the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Team Pogi improved to a 5-1 record, two games ahead of its closest pursuer in Bracket A, following a 105-79 spanking of Marianas Water, while Brabu Gualo Rai climbed up to fifth place in Bracket A with its 2-3 card after outclassing Banahaw Restaurant, 78-72.

Brabu Gualo Rai boosted its bid for one of the two remaining playoff tickets in Bracket A after launching a rally in the fourth and overhauling Banahaw's 11-point lead in the third canto.

The third period started with Banahaw ahead, 61-50, after holding Brabu to 8 points in that frame. Joel Javier scored 8 of his 17 points at the beginning of the second half to lift Banahaw to a twin-digit lead.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Team Pogi's Jason Bahillo threads the defense of Marianas Water's Joseph Galulu, left, and Resty Vergara during the third quarter of their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

However, Javier and company failed to keep its offense going in the fourth period where Brabu outgunned Banahaw, 28-11, to steal the victory. J.P. Jose and Danny Dayrit teamed up in Brabu's fourth-quarter juggernaut with the latter scoring all his 8 points in the final canto, including six straight markers in the closing minutes. Jose also had 8 in the fourth, canning three free throws in the homestretch to ensure the win. He finished with a game-high 27 markers. Victor Mallari also contributed in Brabu's fourth quarter rally, adding 5 points and totaling 15.

Javier was held to 4 points and the rest of his teammates only combined for three field goals in the entire fourth canto, dropping the team to a 3-3 record, just one win ahead of Brabu. Banahaw remained at fourth place and must win its last game to make it to the eight-team playoff round. Only the Top 4 teams in each bracket will make the cut.

In Bracket A, Team Pogi is likely to finish No. 1 in its group after getting its fifth win in six games.

Team Pogi dropped 10 triples against only one from Marianas Water (2-3) to walk away with the easy victory. Jeff Bahillo led Team Pogi's hot shooting from beyond the arc, hitting four treys and firing 30 points. He made 9 straight markers at one point in the third period and added one more in the last one minute of that canto to power Team Pogi to a big 70-54 advantage.

Before the third-quarter breakaway, Team Pogi only led by a deuce at the break, 38-36, as Marianas Water had a 14-6 windup in the last two minutes of the first half. Then Team Pogi had a 10-2 run in the first five minutes of the third to bring the lead back to double digits, 48-38, and the advantage continued to balloon, as Bahillo had his scoring spree midway in that quarter.

Bahillo's hot hands rubbed off to his teammates, as Tim Sula, Renan Lansang, Jerwin Raquero, and Jason Bahillo also drained triples in the fourth canto en route to Team Pogi's 26-point win.

First Game

Brabu Gualo Rai 78 – Jose 27, Mallari 15, Mamaril 10, Dayrit 8, Manalo 8, Samson 6, Galzote 4.

Banahaw Restaurant 72 – Javier 17, Towon 13, Saplan 12, Tabamo 11, Pacson 8, Sevilla 7.

Scoring by quarters: 22-22, 42-37, 50-61, 78-72.

Second Game

Team Pogi 105 – Je. Bahillo 30, Ja. Bahillo 17, Chan 17, Sula 12, Lansang 11, Raquero 5, Salazar 5, Alegre 2.

Marianas Water 79 – Galulu 27, Capalas 13, Olivos 12, Pacheco 7, Casabuena 3, Morales,2, Lazona 2, Vergara 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 38-36, 70-54, 105-79.

Mobil, NVM register blowout victories

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Mobil and NVM came away the winners of Sunday's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League matchups at the Garapan Basketball Court.

A big second half push by A Division's Mobil overwhelmed Ashley's (1-4), 91-74, in the first pairing, while B Division's NVM tore through Cargo Express (2-3), 91-66, in the late game.

Mobil evened its win-loss card to 2-2, while NVM notched its third win in five games.

The regular season wraps up in Garapan on Thursday with the first rounds of the playoffs set for Saturday night. Games start nightly at 6:30pm and 8:30pm.

The rest of the standings show A Division's QQ Rent-A-Car (4-1) leading DLX (3-1), R-Rebels (3-1), and Star Water (0-4) with B Division's Loving Hands (4-1) pacing Wanted Sponsor (3-2), Saipan Hardware (3-2), and Hip Hop Thunder (1-4).

In the first game, 6 early points from both Jack Lizama and Dennis Cortez provided a 16-12 favor for Ashley's in the opening 10 minutes. Perry Inos then came off the bench for 9 markers in the second quarter that kept Ashley's in front, 36-32, at halftime.

Mobil's half court set up started slow from the tip, but its point man Jun Estolas began to show signs of heating up after coming out scoreless in the first frame.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
NVM's Preston Basa in Sunday's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League matchup against Cargo Express held on Garapan court.

Mobil buckled down after the break and made Ashley's pay for its physical defensive scheme in the third quarter that helped establish a 63-56 lead heading into the final period.

A handful of points by Mobil's Bryan Ajoste and Jorge De Guzman, along with 5 from the stripe by Estolas, factored into the uprising.

Ashley's treaded off four treys in the third quarter, but could not keep pace with Mobil's transition game late in the game.

De Guzman and Angelo Fernando delivered 6 points apiece as they cruised to the easy win.

Estolas led three teammates in double digits with 20, while Ashley's Lizama scrambled for 19 on the other end.

In the second game, Preston Basa shot out of the gate with a dozen points that gave NVM an early 21-15 lead in the first quarter.

Cargo Express answered with a pair of threes and 6 points by Bruce Berline, but NVM remained in control, 38-31, at intermission.

Cargo Express broke down at some point in the third quarter as NVM began to run away, 69-46. NVM sunk three from downtown, two of which came from Rocyl Ritual who tallied 10 checks in the charge.

Cargo Express never postured a comeback in the last quarter although its center Berline led all scorers with 22 points. NVM's Basa led three teammates in double figures with 21.

First Game

Mobil 91 – Estolas 20, Ruluked 13, Fernando 13, Deguzman 11, Bahillo 9, Ajoste 7, Maratita 6, Demapan 5, Villarin 4, Abuan 3.

Ashleys 74 – Lizama 19, Inos 12, Mendoza 10, Abuel 10, J Norita 8, Cortez 6, Mungcal 6, Usi 3.

Scoring by quarters: 12-16, 32-36, 63-56, 91-74.

Second Game

NVM 91 – Basa 21, Ritual 16, Mina 16, Joyner 14, Bisama 6, Manibusan 6, Tobias 5, Deleon Guerrero 2, Echavez 2.

Cargo Express 66 – Berline 22, Francisco 12, Sharry 10, Lavarias 6, P Lizama 6, Talania 5, Archangel 3, Morales 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-15, 38-31, 69-46, 91-66.

Strikes Back wins Paire's 3-on-3 soccer fundraiser

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Strikes Back came away the winners of the Paire Football Club's 3-on-3 fundraiser soccer tournament held last June 10 at the Navy Hill Field.

Strikes Back members include Peter Loken, Rob Jordan, and Doi.

The team topped nine other competing squads and won prize packages provided by Docomo Pacific.

Coed teams were randomly selected base on skill-level prior to the event and were divided up in two pools of five. The two last-ranked teams after one round of pool play were ousted and the six remaining squads battled it out in single elimination-play.

Teams were limited to four players per team with only three allowed on the field at one time. There were no goalies in the event, but unlimited substitutions were allowed. The event was open to players of 17 years old and above.

Games were played under two eight minute halves with a five minute halftime break.

Proceeds raised from the event went toward registration fees for the soccer club's youth players.

The Paire group plans on holding another similar event this Fall some time in either September or October, however this time around pre-set teams will be allowed to enter.

The event was organized by Natalie Hill and Steve McKagen. The pair is shooting for a 16-team competition for Paire's second episode.

In addition to Docomo, Hill and McKagen also want to thank Pacific Trading Co. for providing drinks during the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Strikes Back members, from second left, Peter Loken, Doi, and Rob Jordon pose with Paire Football Club's Natalie Hill, left, and Steve McKagen after winning the soccer club's 3-on-3 fundraiser tournament last June 10 at the Navy Hill Field.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mieko wins in Japan Half Ironman

Saipan's Mieko Carey runs along the finish line loop of the Lixil Ironman 70.3 Centrair in Tokoname, Japan last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan pro triathlete Mieko Carey topped the women's 30 to 34 age group of last Saturday's Lixil Ironman 70.3 Centrair in Japan.

Carey completed the Half Ironman in 5:01:40, beating 18 other female finishers in her age group and four in the men's. He placed No. 6 in the women's (out of 134 finishers) and No. 145 overall among the more than 1,500 participants in the race held in Tokoname, located at the Chita District of the Aichi Prefecture.

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Commonwealth entered in 14 events in Oceania tourney

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rachel Abrams goes for a practice run during one of their training sessions at the Oleai Sports Complex early this month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The seven-man CNMI Team will be competing in 14 events in the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 that starts today at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia.

Lia Rangamar will open the CNMI's campaign in the three-day championship, as she competes in the women's javelin throw at 11:30am against the representatives of New Zealand, Australa, and Cook Islands.

Also scheduled for 11:30am is the 400m sprint with the CNMI having two entries in

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Rollers B holds off Agape in Docomo caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Rollers B defeated Rollers Basketball Club's Agape, 30-23, in the second pairing of Tuesday's Docomo Pacific Youth Summer Basketball League U17 matches held at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In addition, U17's Rollers 16-B snuck past the San Antonio Sixers, 36-34, while back on Saturday U25's R-Rebels bested Hi-5, 48-36, after which the Saints held off GVH, 45-36.

Rollers B worked the ball around very well in the first half as six different players helped build a 14-9 lead at the half.

Agape's Allen Yu barreled inside for 10 points, but did not receive enough support to pull off the comeback.

Rollers B's Taba Espinosa led a well-balanced attack with 9 points, while Yu led all scorers with a dozen.

Rollers 16-B worked out an 18-11 halftime advantage in the early tiff largely due to the 8 points of Melvin Deocores.

His pair of 3-pointers were later matched by teammate Ke-

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Rollers B's John Cano snags a rebound for a put-back attempt during Tuesday's 3rd Docomo Youth Summer Youth Basketball League U17 matchup against RBC-Agape held at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Senate honors Ada with commemorative resolution

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Before the start of the 2012 season, CNMI Little League district administrator James Ada announced plans of stepping down after 17 years serving the local organization that fosters America's pastime.

While he will officially hang his hat when the season ends in October, Ada was honored during the closing ceremony of this year's CNMI Little League District Tournament when he received a commemorate resolution from the Senate for his years of service.

The resolution praised Ada as a role model for the youth in the community. His successor, Mike Borja, was also honored during the closing ceremony.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
CNMI district administrator James Ada accepts a commemorative resolution from the Senate during the closing ceremony of the CNMI Little League District Tournament earlier this month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

According to the Senate resolution, Ada served as Little League vice president in 1992, player agent in 1993, was declared Far East Regional Tournament director from 1999 to 2001, attended the 2010 Little League Baseball Congress held in Ottawa, Canada, served as a board member during the 2002 ASPAC in Guam and was named an advisor of the event in 2003.

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